



Argument Against Medicaid Expansion Ballot Initiative, Proposition Two

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Proposition 2, Medicaid expansion, would not lower the cost of medical care for the average Idahoan. Instead, Medicaid expansion, a cornerstone of Obamacare, would put Idaho one step closer to a top-down, federal-government-run, taxpayer-funded healthcare system. If Medicaid expansion occurs, it would be nearly impossible to reverse. Below are the top reasons why Idahoans should vote NO on Prop 2.

- Medicaid expansion would take funds away from education, roads, and other budget priorities. During the past 12 years, Medicaid spending in Idaho has more than doubled, thereby taking money away from classrooms, roads, and other items. Should Proposition 2 pass, either more funds would be diverted to Medicaid, taxes would be increased, or both could occur.
- Proposition 2 would expand healthcare coverage to people who are able to work. They and low-income individuals already have options to help them obtain affordable healthcare.
- The truly needy, who currently receive Medicaid assistance, could find themselves harmed if Medicaid expands to cover the able-bodied. The state shouldn't prioritize the care of childless adults above that of pregnant women, children, and the disabled.

Other reasons to vote NO on Proposition 2 include:

Medicaid expansion would add to the national debt, because of increased federal government support for the program. After expansion, nearly half of Idaho's budget would come directly from federal funds. Additionally, expansion would help entrench the failed results of Obamacare. Further, as California, Oregon, and other states have found, future Medicaid costs would likely be far higher than expansion proponents and the government estimate.

States that have expanded Medicaid, on average, have seen enrollments more than double what was initially projected. This is not surprising. Of the 12 million able-bodied adults added to Medicaid through expansion in other states, more than half are not working. We don't want to make Idaho attractive to those who don't want to work.

You might have heard that large hospital associations, doctors, and other medical professionals support Medicaid expansion. Why? These large medical providers seek an injection of taxpayer funds and want to off-load the costs of care onto taxpayers. Many of these same groups supported Obamacare, with all of its false promises to lower the cost of healthcare.

We advocate a NO vote on Proposition 2 because it would mean less money for other budget items—education, roads, and other priorities—or tax increases. Or, expansion would mean program cuts and tax increases. Further, Proposition 2 would provide health coverage to people who could obtain subsidized healthcare. Finally, this initiative jeopardizes care for the truly needy. Vote NO on Proposition 2.