

Submitted by Bob Neugebauer, Publisher the Gem State Patriot. 2189 North Arommink Way, Meridian, Idaho 83646. Tel. 208-887-2144

Chairman Hagedorn and Chairman Loertscher distinguished members of the committee.

My Name is Bob Neugebauer I live in Meridian Idaho and I'm the Publisher of the Gem State Patriot.

I'm here today to speak against Medicaid Expansion in our State.

This morning I sent out the following letter to 30 conservative organizations throughout Idaho representing between 20 and 30 thousand households.

Dear Friends:

We took the time to make this video with Dr. Brook after reading his book "The High Cost of Socialized Medicine" and hearing his testimony at the legislative committee on Medicaid Gap Expansion. It is only 36 minutes long and we hope you will take the time to view it and send it on to your organizations members and friends as it is critical that everyone understand how socialized medicine is changing the face of our country.

If you can we would also appreciate if you could put this video on your Facebook page to give it as much exposure as possible. The fact that our legislature is contemplating Medicaid Expansion in Idaho is quite disturbing. Dr. Brook who has had a family practice for 13 years offered up to them a different way to take care of those who fall in the Medicaid gap which we thought had a lot of merit. You all remember the promises our legislators made about the State Healthcare Exchange and how it would make it easier to insure people and prices would be lower? Well they will be making the same promises with Medicaid expansion that it will bring in money from the federal government to pay for the poor people who cannot afford healthcare and improve our economy with more jobs. We do not believe either of these things will happen. They want to offer Medicaid gap insurance paid for with federal funds to 78,000 Idahoans. Experience in other states has shown that the estimates of people who sign up for Medicaid expansion are far greater than any of the states anticipated by double or more. If they were to sign up 150,000 we would be in the ball park of their experience. Medical care as you know it in Idaho will change as more doctors refuse to take Medicaid patients and doctors who are already overburdened with patients will find they have to schedule patients out 3 and 4 months for examinations. We will basically have rationing of healthcare because of the longer wait times for doctor's appointments.

Currently 21% of Idahoans are on some form of monthly government subsidies and with the possibility of 150,000 more being added on we are becoming a welfare state using borrowed federal money. Thirty five percent of Idaho's annual state budget already comes from the federal government. What will happen when the feds decide cut payments? As taxpayers are you going willing to make up the difference in more taxes or by cutting school funding to pay for this government sponsored healthcare? How will our legislators tell 150,000 people that their healthcare has been cancelled, they will be devastated. Let's try a simpler solution called "Free Markets" which have worked for the past 240 years since we declared our independence. Please spread the word and call, write or e-mail your legislators and tell them no more government aid for Medicaid expansion. Let's find a more humane solution that will actually lower costs and provide real healthcare not more government rules and regulations. Remember nothing is for free someone has to pay the bill.

Below you will find the link to our video with Dr. Brook. Please enjoy and share it.

<http://gemstatepatriot.com/blog/dr-jim-brook-practicing-medicine-old-fashioned-way/>

Thanks and have a great day, Bob Neugebauer