

JOINT
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
AND
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Friday, February 12, 2016

ATTACHMENT 5

02/12/16
Kevin O'Sullivan

The Politics of Life

ISIS and Medicaid Expansion

With the presidential primaries under way, the politics of life, terrorism and security cause unscrupulous politicians to stir up voters' fears. The horrific deaths of 14 Americans in San Bernadino at the hands of ISIS followers was pure evil but politicians in Idaho allow hundreds of working Idaho citizens, to die each year at a high cost to taxpayers, for purely political reasons. Who should "we the people" fear more: ISIS or these politicians?

Governor Otter's Milliman report referenced reduced mortality as shown by the New England Journal of Medicine (herewith) for people on healthcare insurance, as 1 life saved for every 176 people added to the healthcare insurance rolls. For the 78,000 uninsured Idaho people in the gap, this equates to 443 lives saved each year. You should save these lives even if there is no \$173 million bonus benefit to Idaho (which there is over 10 years) and use it to fix other problems like education, or cut taxes and provide better healthcare to veterans and their families. You can do many things if you forget about your politics and focus on the people who sent you here.

Just close the gap with the Healthy Idaho Plan. Not to do so is *to be 100 x worse* than ISIS. The Governor's PCAP plan is mere political pap that lacks common sense and further insults the working poor and taxpayers.

Thank you for your time. Kevin O'Sullivan Statehouse Feb 12- 2016