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Health Care Organizations Look to Bolster Ballot Initiative

Boise, ID—Local health organizations are joining the effort to put closing the coverage gap on the ballot in Idaho. Following another year of legislative inaction, advocates are eager to give the voters of Idaho the chance to decide.

Grassroots volunteers across the state have been working tirelessly to collect signatures to qualify the proposal for the ballot. Multiple professional organizations that advocate for healthcare for Idahoans are stepping up to train volunteers in signature collection and notarize signatures. These organizations include Idaho Voices for Children, the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians, and the Idaho Medical Association, all of which are stepping up their involvement.

“The Idaho Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors feels closing the health insurance coverage gap should be a decision of the voters in Idaho” said Neva Santos, Executive Director of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians. “With the lack of action on the part of the Legislature over the past several years, the voters need to determine if health care is their priority. We need to allow the voters to decide on this important matter that affects so many of our neighbors and friends”

Advocates are confident that if enough signatures are collected, the public will support the measure this fall.

“The voters of Idaho have made their priorities loud and clear. They want health insurance to be more affordable and they want Idahoans to stop worrying about going bankrupt or going without lifesaving healthcare,” said Lauren Necochea, director of Idaho Voices for Children. “We know that 76% of Idahoans want a solution to the coverage gap. We’re hoping they get a chance to vote for one this November.”

In the final month of the of the signature collection effort organizers believe that the measure will have the support it needs to qualify for the ballot.

Those interested in joining the effort can stop by the Idaho Voices for Children Office at any time to pick up a petition, and can stop by between 3pm and 5pm on Fridays to sign a petition or get your signatures notarized.

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