



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019



REPRESENTATIVE JIM DUNNIGAN
DISTRICT 39



APRIL 2019

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LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHT

UTAH'S DROP IN BURDENsome LICENSING LAWS

I am one of two Representatives, successfully working to reduce unneeded regulations in Utah. Utah's ranking of occupational licensing burden in the United States saw a massive decrease, down from 13th to 50th nationwide. This is a collaborative effort between the legislative and executive branches.

"For the past decade, I have directed our Executive Branch agencies to reduce unnecessary business regulation by reviewing what is on the books and actively looking for opportunities to cut red tape. At the same time, our Utah State Legislature has taken a proactive role in reducing regulatory burdens that do little to protect the public," stated Governor Gary R. Herbert. (Continued below)



In 2017, the Institute for Justice, a national non-profit, public interest law firm, published the second edition of "License to Work: A National Study of Burdens from Occupational Licensing." The study documents the licensing requirements for 102 lower-income occupations across 50 states and the District of Columbia, ranking states according to the extent of such licensing laws and the burdens they represent for aspiring workers.

Prior to the report's publication, Utah scaled back licensing requirements for various subcontractors covered in the study, dropping a two-year experience requirement and eliminating two exams. In early 2018, IJ updated its "License to Work" data and rankings to reflect those reforms, as well as additional updates from other states.

In the 2019 Utah legislative session passed over 23 bills, three of which I sponsored and passed, related to the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) to change and/or reduce the burden to entry across dozens of professions. The Beehive State is one of 11 states participating in a national licensing review coalition.

Utah's state team includes both legislative and executive branch team members, assisted by the National Governor's Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Council of State Governments. The Coalition's work is funded through a US Department of Labor grant. The State Consortium will continue its work through 2019.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

With the passage of Prop 3 and S.B. 96 this past legislative session, we applied for a waiver from the federal government to expand Medicaid to the coverage gap. The waiver was granted March 29, 2019. On April 1, 2019 enrollment was opened to all of Utah's eligible residents, closing the coverage gap.

So far 28,000 people have enrolled. This will provide much needed medical coverage for those who are in need of it most.



For more information about Medicaid Expansion, and for information about enrolling, visit the website for the Utah Department of Health (www.health.utah.gov).

The Utah Department of Health's Division of Medicaid and Health Financing can be contacted by phone at 801-574-0956, or by email at medicaid-expansion@utah.gov.

APRIL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy is an organization that seeks to promote respect and understanding between the people of Utah and other Nations. In collaboration with the U.S.

Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, invite delegates from around the world to meet with leaders in Utah.

This month I was fortunate to meet with two groups, one from China, and the other from Afghanistan.

I also had the opportunity to speak at a State of Reform conference about Medicaid Expansion, and an NAIC conference.



UTAH COUNCIL FOR
CITIZEN
DIPLOMACY



China

I met with 14 guests from China. They had questions about how our government deals with potential problems in business and labor. The group included delegates and government employees, educators, and business leaders.

I always enjoy the meeting with leaders from different countries. It is an opportunity to gain understanding and insight as we share about each of our countries.

Afghanistan

I met with eight guests from Afghanistan. This group also included delegates and government employees, educators, and business leaders.

The chairperson made the following comments:

Dear distinguished Rep. Jim Dunnigan,

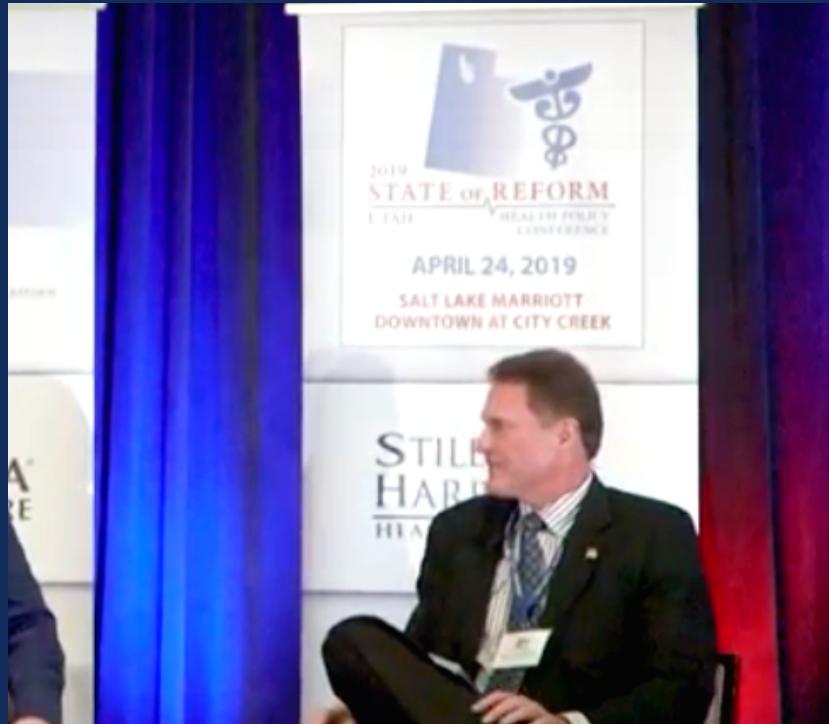
I would like also thank you for the nice and educative speech over transparency and good governance. Our Utah visit was all educative and full of memories unforgettable, the system of good governance, the people and the beautiful city with nice churches.

Ainuddin Bahodury
Chairperson (AIC)
Access to Information Commission



State of Reform

State of Reform is an organization with the mission of "bridging the gap between health care and health policy." They held a conference in Salt Lake, and I was one of two keynote speakers along Senator Gene Davis discussing health care expansion in Utah.



Inter-State Product Commission

I was invited as one of four legislators from throughout the country to serve on the inter-state product commission. The commission meets with insurance regulators from each state to streamline and reduce unnecessary insurance regulation.



CONTACT INFORMATION

As always, please feel free to contact me. I am able to meet at the capitol, or at my office in Taylorsville. The address is 3105 W 5400 S Suite 6, Taylorsville, UT, 84129.

I can be reached by phone at 801-840-1800, or by email at junnigan@le.utah.gov.