



# LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019



REPRESENTATIVE JIM DUNNIGAN  
DISTRICT 39



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In spite of the very cold and snowy holiday week we've had, I have much to be grateful for having just celebrated Thanksgiving. My amazing family is at the top of the list of things I am most grateful for. Having my wife, children, and grandchildren, including the latest addition (a one week old grand daughter!!!) in my life makes it infinitely more rich and exciting!

I would be remiss if I didn't also express my gratitude for the people within my community— the friends and neighbors I have the responsibility and opportunity to represent as a State Legislator, which has been one of the most distinct privileges of my life.



## AT THE CAPITOL



### **Advanced Nurse Practitioner's Award**

During the 2019 General Session I sponsored legislation making it possible for advanced Nurse Practitioner's to exercise more independently in diagnostics and prescribing medication to their patients ultimately cutting out unnecessary regulation.

This month, they honored me with an award for the work I did on the bill, Nurse Practice Act Amendments.

# NOVEMBER INTERIM HIGHLIGHTS

## Resolution Recognizing the 250th Anniversary of the United States

The Economic Development and Workforce Services committee discussed and approved draft legislation, "Resolution Recognizing the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the United States of America." The concurrent resolution recognizes the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and requests that the Governor organize a commission to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate a statewide effort commemorating and celebrating the anniversary.



## Utah Health Insurance Markets: 2020 Premiums

The Health Reform Task Force (the committee I chair) received a report from the Insurance Department on 2020 health insurance rates for the individual and small group markets. Rates in the individual market will be 1.8% lower overall than in 2019; rates in the small group market will be 2.0% higher overall than in 2019.

The department also recommended that the state tighten the actuarial value range for silver-level plans in order to qualify for increased federal premium subsidies and require insurers to offer standardized plans to facilitate plan comparison.

## Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings

The Judiciary committee approved a committee bill draft, "Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings Amendments," which limits the circumstances in which a petition for termination of parental rights may be filed under Title 78A, Chapter 6, Part 3, Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Proceedings. The bill also requires the court to take into account certain statutory provisions and kinship preferences in abuse, neglect, and dependency proceedings.



## Expungement

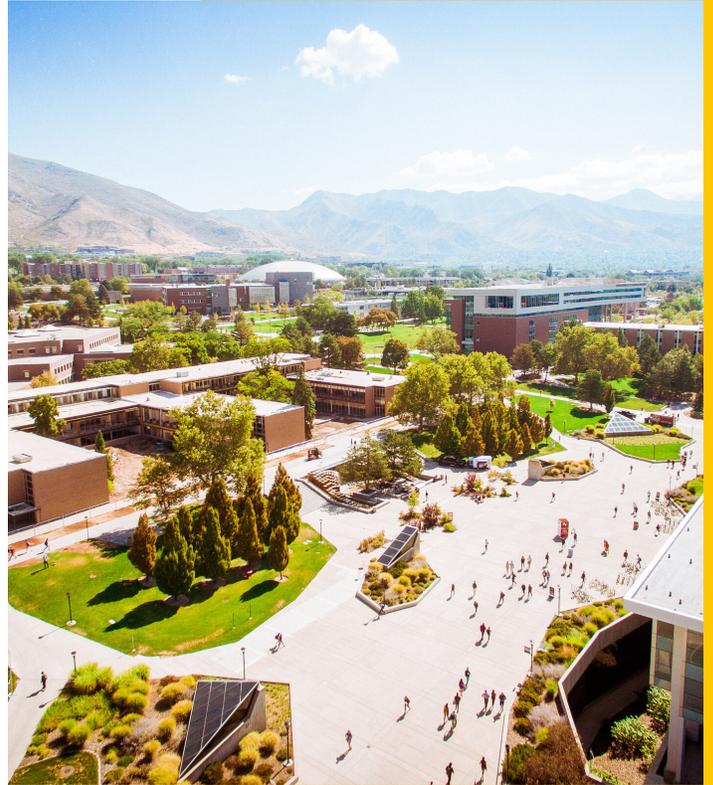
The Criminal Code Evaluation Task force discussed barriers to licensing and employment for individuals with expunged records. The task force received comments from the Department of Commerce, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, the Division of Child and Family Services, the Utah Insurance Department, and the Division of Finance.

Ultimately, the task force voted to have staff explore whether this issue should be addressed in a task force bill or in an existing bill file opened previously by a task force member.

## Campus Safety Plans

The Education committee received statutorily required reports from the Utah System of Higher Education and the Utah System of Technical Colleges regarding the implementation of campus safety plans.

Additionally, they heard information from the Utah System of Higher Education related to campus safety improvements, including increased lighting, courtesy escorts, and campus escort ride programs that provide free rides to campus locations, and further discussed coordination between campus security and law enforcement agencies.



## Ballot Simplification

The Government Operations committee approved a committee bill draft , “Ballot and Voter Information Amendments.”

The bill amends provisions related to ballots and information provided to voters, creates a statewide ballot question voter guide, and amends the duties of the attorney and clerk of a municipality or county in relation to providing information.



## Affordable Housing Amendments

The Economic Development and Workforce Services discussed and approved draft legislation, "Affordable Housing Amendments," which modifies provisions related to agency allocations for community reinvestment, providing rental assistance, and the assignment of low-income housing tax credit.



## 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.

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