



# LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019 AND JANUARY 2020



**REPRESENTATIVE JIM DUNNIGAN  
DISTRICT 39**



**DECEMBER 2019  
AND  
JANUARY 2020**

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Happy New Year, and welcome to 2020! I hope that 2019 was a year full of happiness and the things and people you love most, and that you will have a remarkable year to come.



In 2019 the Dunnigan family welcomed a new addition! Baby Alice was born in November, making six grandchildren— three girls, and three boys. As a legislator it was my privilege to, serve my friends and neighbors in District 39, and to get to know many of you better.



### 2020 General Session

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again, but the 2020 General Legislative Session is upon us! The session will begin Monday, January 27th, and end Wednesday, March 12th.

I look forward to the work ahead of us this session! I invite you to come to the Capitol to see the legislative session at work, and sit with me on the House floor. If you would look to do so, feel free to contact me. As I have in previous years, I will send a weekly newsletter giving updates of current legislation.

Once the session begins I will give more information about the bills I'll be sponsoring and working on.



## Tax Reform

The legislatures, in a December 2019 Special Session, passed a tax reform law. The bill increases the tax on un-prepared food, fuel, and some services. It also lowered the income tax rate and increased the dependent exemption.

**After listening from many of you, and learning that you did not support the tax reform effort, I voted against the bill.**

The legislature will repeal the law this upcoming week, during the first week of the 2020 General Session.

I appreciate so many of you letting me know how you felt about this issue.



## Medicaid Expansion

During the 2019 General Session, I sponsored legislation (SB 96) to expand Medicaid. The bill was signed into law on February 11, 2019.

SB 96 proposed a plan to close the coverage gap and provide healthcare to those who in Utah who need it most in a fiscally responsible way.

The bill requested the federal government to approve a waiver to let us expand to 138% of poverty with flexibility to implement specific terms.

On December 23, 2019, they gave us approval of the waiver. This means that as of Jan 1, 2020, Utah implemented full Medicaid expansion. Adults can enroll in Medicaid with income eligibility up to 138% of poverty. The federal government pays 90% of the cost.

For more information, visit [click here](#).



# AT THE CAPITOL

## 2019 Governor's Award

I received the 2019 Governor's Award for my service, advocacy and legislation on behalf of those with substance use and mental health disorders in Utah.



## Excellence in Public Service Award

I was also honored with the Excellence in Public Service Award by the Utah Specialty Courts, an award given for "outstanding efforts in support of Medicaid Expansion and Specialty Courts in Utah."



## Utah Hospice and Home Healthcare Award

Homecare & Hospice Association of Utah focuses on end of life and important home healthcare. Their primary goal is to make it possible for people to stay in the comfort of their home as they receive critical care.

Utah has experienced a shortage of home healthcare professionals. Last year I secured additional funding to raise the pay for these important professionals. This is the first time a legislator has been recognized by the association.



## 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 [jdunnigan@le.utah.gov](mailto:jdunnigan@le.utah.gov).

