



## ID Supreme Court Upholds Medicaid Prop. 2

Just one week after hearing oral arguments in the case filed against the voter-approved Proposition 2, the Idaho Supreme Court has ruled that the initiative *is* constitutional to expand the Medicaid program in Idaho.



In its Opinion, the Court stated, "*What this case actually presents to the Court is not an urgent constitutional issue, but a political question. This became readily apparent at oral argument ...*" Additionally, two justices dissented, indicating that the lawsuit warranted a dismissal on procedural issues, rather than a determination on the constitutionality of the statute in question. [Read the Court's full Opinion here.](#)

Idaho legislators have been

Idaho legislators have been in a holding pattern to enact and fund the measure while awaiting the high Court's decision. Now legislators and stakeholders are working to finalize the components of the bill to expand Medicaid eligibility rules to Idahoans currently in the 'gap population.' IACI has invited House Health & Welfare Chairman Wood to present the proposed bill to the IACI Legislative Committee for discussion. Once enacted, the new law will provide health care service access and funding for about 62,000 more low-income residents, lowering state costs in the Catastrophic Fund and Indigent Funds, while stabilizing private-payer premiums.

The federal government will pay for 90 percent of the estimated \$400 million cost, with Idaho

picking up 10% of the tab. The \$10.8 million needed to fund the first phase will be accessed from Idaho's Millennium Fund, which Governor Brad Little earmarked in his proposed budget, and legislators will determine how best to fund the remainder in a proposed bill soon.

## Idaho Good Neighbor Authority Timber Sale

As part of a state-federal partnership to increase the management activities on federal lands in Idaho, the state auctioned another US Forest Service timber sale this week.



The **High Forks GNA Ton timber sale** is the first Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sale on the Boise National Forest and Idaho's fifth timber sale sold under GNA. Good Neighbor is a federal law that enables the Forest Service to partner with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to achieve restoration and resilient landscape objectives across ownership boundaries in Idaho.



IACI Board member **Idaho Forest Group** submitted the winning bid of \$162.90 per thousand board feet to purchase the High Forks GNA Ton timber sale contract, which will mitigate fuels associated with 916 acres of tree thinning. The project will reduce fuels and improve forest health. Approximately 5,392 million board feet of timber will be harvested, and new trees will be planted for natural regeneration to occur.

The GNA is an important tool, and the GNA-generated income will be reinvested in forest areas to improve the forest and watershed health and increase fire resilient landscapes. This timber sale auction and other planned GNA projects around Idaho are the result of almost three years of work between the state of Idaho, US Forest Service, timber companies, forest collaboratives and the local communities.

[Click Here for the Current IACI Legislative Tracking List](#)

## Opportunity to Support STEM Education

Below is an opportunity to support workforce development efforts in a very tangible way! **Vision Charter School** in Caldwell is setting up their unique STEM Programs to allow students to graduate from high school with an AA degree or professional certificates in welding, nursing, etc.

To get their programs up and running, they have some specific needs: (a) **Tool donations** such as screwdrivers, wrenches, and other items that will assist in "building and taking apart!" (b) **Equipment donations** such as lathes, CNC machines, laser cutters, drill presses, 3-D printers, computers, etc. and (c) **Financial donations** to round out all the items needed to get the program prepared. They have a match opportunity through the **Idaho STEM Action Center** for private donations between \$1,000 and \$5,000. [Click here to learn more](#), or email Casey Boothby, Vice Principal for Electives, at [caseyboothby@visioncsd.org](mailto:caseyboothby@visioncsd.org) to discuss how you can support this endeavor. Your consideration is very appreciated!



**STEM**  
ACTION CENTER



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