

News Release

WYOMING HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



FOR RELEASE Immediately
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LEGISLATORS URGE GOVERNOR'S ACTION ON NATIONAL HEALTHCARE BILL

CHEYENNE – Senators and Representatives of the Wyoming State Legislature have sent a letter to Governor Freudenthal requesting that Wyoming, through the Attorney General's Office, join other states in a complaint filed against the recently signed nation healthcare bill. The court review would examine the legality of the legislation largely through a constitutional analysis of its provisions mandating citizens to purchase healthcare and imposing monetary penalties on those who refuse.

Early Monday, many legislators began receiving calls from constituents asking if Wyoming will join in the review. Citizens are also placing calls to the governor's office requesting involvement. Rep. Amy Edmonds (R-Cheyenne) stated "I really believe it's a situation where people feel, and now have seen first-hand, that Washington doesn't listen so they call their local legislator and ask, "Can you help us?" "What can we do to make our voices heard?" The calls are statewide. "We are trying to be responsive, listen to our constituents, and take action" said Sen. Kit Jennings (R-Casper). "The most common complaints are first, they don't like the way this went down, second, people don't want to be forced to purchase something and don't want to be penalized if they don't and third, they realize that the legislation comes at a huge financial cost and don't trust Washington to budget for it, which people see as the beginning of a national sales tax or higher income and payroll taxes," said Majority Floor Leader Rep. Edward Buchanan (R-Torrington).

Another important concern is that Washington likely will be forcing Wyoming to reach into its own budget to spend potentially millions of dollars without providing the funds or resources to the state to help subsidize the cost of implementation of the law. "We in Wyoming have been responsible with our budget in uncertain economic times, we don't need more unfunded mandates from on high," Buchanan said.

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Attachments #1, #2