

Testimony
Office of Governor Dalrymple
Health Care Reform Committee
Representative George Keiser, Chairman
July 25, 2012

Good morning Chairman Keiser and members of the Health Care Reform Committee. My name is Tami Ternes, Policy Advisor to Governor Dalrymple.

I am here today to provide information regarding the Governor's position on the health benefits exchange and Medicaid expansion provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As we all know, the State House of Representatives voted 64 to 30 to defeat efforts to establish a state-based, ACA mandated exchange. Since that time, the Governor is not persuaded that there is any reason to alter the course adopted by the House action. Therefore, he remains opposed to the establishment of a state-based exchange.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal government cannot mandate states to expand their Medicaid programs. Several critical questions remain to be answered before states can determine best how to proceed in light of the Court's decision. The Department of Human Services has submitted numerous questions to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and will analyze the responses as they are received.

This concludes my testimony.