

Governor Rick Scott: We Must Protect the Uninsured and Florida Taxpayers with Limited Medicaid Expansion

- Governor Scott believed in a different approach. But, regardless of what he – or anyone else - believes, a Supreme Court decision and a presidential election made the President's healthcare mandates the law of the land.
- Because of the many unknowns that still surround the operation of an exchange, Governor Scott will not commit Florida to running an insurance exchange.
- On the question of Medicaid expansion, there are no PERFECT options. Our options are either having Floridians pay to fund this program in other states while denying healthcare to our citizens – ***OR*** – using federal funding to help some of the poorest in our state with the Medicaid program as we explore other healthcare reforms.
- While the federal government is committed to paying 100 percent of the cost of new people in Medicaid, Governor Scott will not, in good conscious, deny the uninsured access to care. He supports a three-year expansion of Medicaid under the new healthcare law, as long as the federal government meets their commitment to pay 100 percent of the cost during this time.
- **Any legislation the Governor would support must sunset after three years and need to be reauthorized. It would also sunset if the federal government backed away from their 100 percent commitment during this period.**
 - Expanding access to Medicaid services for three years is a compassionate, common sense step forward.
 - It is ***NOT*** the end of our work to improve healthcare.
 - And, it is ***NOT*** a white flag of surrender to government-run healthcare.
- This careful approach has important advantages for both those in need of healthcare ***AND*** the taxpayers who finance our Medicaid program.
 - FIRST – the federal government committed to pay 100 percent of the Medicaid expansion for the first three years.
 - SECOND – three years is a reasonable period to judge just how well the expansion is working and to explore further reforms to improve cost, quality and access in healthcare – both in the public and private markets.
 - THIRD – this time allows us to evaluate the federal government's ability to meet their financial commitments to Florida and every state now facing a Medicaid expansion.
 - FOURTH – a sunset guarantees a meaningful reassessment when we have more facts about how expansion will impact cost, quality and access to care. It also avoids saddling taxpayers with a government-style, open-ended spending commitment that rolls on forever with no real review.
- Governor Scott said he will NOT simply deny new Medicaid recipients health insurance three years from now. He is committed to protecting care for these Floridians, just as he is committed to protecting Florida taxpayers by evaluating the expansion over the next three years with the help of the state's health agency and legislative committees.