



State of Utah

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Acting Insurance Commissioner

Insurance Department

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Health Care Reform Fraud Alert

No sooner had President Obama sign into law the health care reform bill than media reports began coming in that people were going door to door selling phony insurance policies. Acting Utah Insurance Commissioner Neal T. Gooch reported that: "So far the Utah Insurance Department has received no reports of such policies being sold here." But he encouraged: "We hope that anyone being approached to buy such a policy will call us immediately and we will get our Fraud Division working on it." Consumers can call either (801) 538-3077 or toll free 800-439-3805.

Today Health and Human Services Sec. Kathleen Sebelius alerted state authorities of the increasing number of scams nationwide. She stated that: "while there are new insurance options in the near future... consumers should beware of policies that are time limited, offer limited health benefits, or advertise themselves as being necessitated by health insurance reform."

As a precaution consumers should verify that the one selling them an insurance product is licensed. They can do this by going to www.insurance.utah.gov and clicking on "Search Company/Agent," or by calling (801)538-3855. You should also ask the agent for a business card verify the name and who he or she works.

"If we as consumers can educate ourselves about health reform," said Commissioner Gooch, "We will be better able to make decisions that can benefit ourselves and our families." Health and Human Services has a website at www.healthreform.gov that will have the latest updates on federal health reform. In addition, the Utah Insurance Department's website is accumulating information about both state and Federal health reform at www.insurance.utah.gov/health/healthreform.html.

If you have any questions or information to pass along regarding this issue call (801)538-3077 or toll free 800-439-3805.

The Utah Insurance Department is a state agency whose mandate is to regulate insurance marketed and sold in Utah. Currently they license over 89,000 agents, agencies and insurers; audit domestic insurers to verify financial stability and compliance with insurance laws; take administrative actions against licensees found to be in violation of the insurance laws; take calls from consumers who have questions or complaints; and educate licensees and consumers regarding insurance. Visit our website at <http://www.insurance.utah.gov/> or call our toll free in-state number 1-800-439-3805 or local number 801-538-3077.