

Legislative Update from Senator Aaron Osmond

Monthly Update for October/November 2015

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this email finds you and your family well. This month's update will be a bit shorter than usual. I will save the meat of my communications for my upcoming Quarterly Update Meeting to be held at the Daybreak Community Center this Saturday. See details below and RSVP soon!

You will also find details and links from our October Legislative Interim Day held just a few weeks ago. I focused in on those committees that I attended, but if you would like more details about the entire interim summary, you can always download the full October Monthly Interim Summary located at the following link: <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00004816.pdf>

As usual, I thank you for taking the time to read my updates and for how engaged you have been in the political process with me. I hope you will continue to reach out and share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns with me.

Reminder - Quarterly Update Meeting – Coming Up on Saturday, November 14th

This is the final reminder to please join me for my Quarterly Update Meeting this Saturday. I have some **very important information and announcements** to share with my delegates and any constituents who would like to attend. I hope you will make time to come (even just for the first hour if that's all you can do).

Event Details:

Date: **Saturday, November 14th**

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Place: Daybreak Community Center (4544 Harvest Moon Dr., South Jordan) – Room B

Note: Refreshments will be provided. **Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly.**

The Current Agenda:

We will be reviewing the following topics in this meeting:

- I will be making a few special announcements about my campaign for 2016
- I will discuss my recent vote against Medicaid Expansion in Utah
- I will review a few of the key bills I plan to propose during the 2016 General Session
- I will discuss any other items at the request of delegates/citizens attending

Please feel free to invite your neighbors to join us as well!

My Bill List for the 2016 General Legislative Session:

The primary purpose of my Quarterly Update Meeting is to provide my delegates and interested constituents a comprehensive review of the key bills that I am planning to propose in the upcoming 2016 General Legislative

Session. The session is fast approaching. In the past these meetings have been a key source of feedback and perspective that I have used to finalize my plans. This is also a great venue to share your thoughts and feelings about key policy issues directly with me face-to-face.

To access a full list of all the Legislative Bills that I am currently planning to propose in the 2016 General Legislative Session, please take the following steps:

- 1) Go to www.Utah.LE.Gov
- 2) Hover over the “Bills” tab on the left menu
- 3) Then select “Bills/Bill Requests” at the top of that menu
- 4) Then select the “2016 General Session”
- 5) On the Senator row, select “Senator Osmond, A.”, and then press the “Find” button on that row

Over the last 5 years I have worked hard to fully inform my constituents about my legislative plans. If you are unable to attend my upcoming meeting, then please feel free to reach out to me via email or phone if you would like more details about any of these bills. My Legislative Coordinator, Ian Robertson or I would be more than willing to answer any inquiries you may have. I hope you will take the time to learn about what I am doing. This is a partnership that I take very seriously. See you soon!

Latest Proposal on Medicaid Expansion – Utah Access +

As a reminder about my stand on Medicaid Expansion, the following points are the key concerns I have about the most recent proposal to expand Medicaid and why I voted against it. I will explain these items in more detail at my update meeting this Saturday. For now, here is a summary of those concerns:

- 1) Any expansion of Medicaid directly expands the number of individuals receiving government entitlements, thereby expanding the size of government and related cost to tax payers. This is not consistent with fiscally conservative principles nor the Republican platform that we should seek to reduce the size of government.
- 2) A large majority of the cost of this expansion of Medicaid in our state rests on the assumption that the Federal government will continue to be able to pay for their portion of the cost over time. That is a high-risk assumption based on how our Federal government manages its fiscal matters. The National Debt is now well over 18 trillion dollars. I do not believe that we can count on the long-term assumption of financial stability from the Federal government (even if those funds are just Federal taxes coming right out of the pockets of the citizens of our state).
- 3) There is an assumption that if the Federal government is unable to continue to cover the cost of Medicaid Expansion in our state that we, as state leaders, will be able to remove or reduce these new entitlement benefits to manage that cost down. This is also a high risk assumption that we will have the political capability to remove a benefit from voters who want their elected officials to continue to fund this benefit, even if it requires higher taxes on the people.
- 4) Finally, the concept that a key portion of the cost of this most recent expansion proposal would be placed on the backs of Health Care Providers is concerning to me. First it is another new tax on business, and

second, it is simply a cost that will eventually be passed down to the insurance premium payers anyway (that is you and me).

While I do care about finding a cost effective health care solution for the most needy in our state (especially those defined as “medically frail”, the current proposals have not balanced that need with a fiscally sound long term solution that I can support. We will discuss more next Saturday.

October Legislative Interim Day – My Committee Meeting Summary

Here is a quick overview of the committee meetings I attended at the most recent Interim Session held last month:

Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee

On October 21st, the Economic Development Committee (which I co-chair) heard annual reports from the Department of Heritage and Arts, the Department of Workforce Services, and GOED. The committee also heard from Kathy Bounous, General Counsel from DWS, about proposed legislation. DWS is recommending changes to state statute in response to 2014 changes to the Federal Workforce Investment Act. I support all the changes and we opened bill files to address their requests.

For full details of the meeting you can click [here](#) to see the full agenda and listen to the entire committee hearing via audio playback.

Education Interim Committee

The committee heard the annual report from the Utah School of the Deaf and Blind. Kathy Davis, our Youth Suicide Prevention Specialist, presented a report on suicide rates amongst the youth in the state of Utah. She noted that Utah has a higher than the average national rate suicide. Suicide is the leading cause of death for youth ages 10-17 in Utah. On average, 37 youth in Utah die by suicide and 942 youth are treated for a suicide attempts each year. This past year suicides impacted 14 school districts and 4 charter school districts. Senator Dabakis urged the committee to remember that many of the youths committing suicide are part of the LGBT community and that we need to be more sensitive to this unique population and their mental health needs.

The Evaluation and Training Institute then reviewed the effectiveness of early intervention software programs. They noted they have seen success in elementary and kindergarten but these effects start to decline in 2nd grade. Finally, representatives from the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) talked about the USOE’s efforts to implement [SB222](#) which required the Utah State Office of Education to adopt a master plan for digital teaching.

Again, you can catch up on the full audio at this link, click [here](#).

Conclusion

Once again thank you for taking the time and effort to become familiarized with the work I am doing on the Hill. We have about 2 months left until the 2016 General Legislative Session and the time is quickly approaching. As we get closer, I thank you in advance for your patience with me as I seek to answers your emails and phone calls. My Legislative Coordinator (Ian Robertson) and I will do our very best to get back to you as soon as we can.

Staying Connected

Also, remember that you can connect with me at the Utah Senate wherever you live on social media by visiting our cloud site at www.SenateSite.com. I am also on available on Facebook (Facebook.com/aaronvosmond) or Twitter at @avosmond.

I can also be reached by email at aosmond@le.utah.gov or by phone at (801) 888-8742. You're also welcome to join me at the Capitol during the November Interim Day scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th.

If you'd like to meet with me in person during any interim meeting or during the legislative session, you can reach Ian Robertson, my Legislative Coordinator at irobertsonslc@gmail.com or 801-888-8742. He'll help us get in touch, set up a meeting, or answer any question you might have.

Talk to you soon!

Sincerely,
Aaron

Senator Aaron Osmond
11466 Country Knoll Road
South Jordan, UT 84095
801-897-8127 Cell
aosmond@le.utah.gov
www.aaronosmond.com

Legislative Coordinator
Ian Robertson
Cell Phone: 801-888-8742 –or- 801-819-1037
Email: irobertsonslc@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION NOTE: If you would prefer not to receive these updates, please let me know and I will remove you from the list.