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**Idaho KIDS COUNT Releases Infographic, ‘The Coverage Gap for Idaho Families’:
Without the Medicaid option, Idaho families will have unequal health care access in 2014**

BOISE, ID — Last week the Associated Press reported on the coverage gap looming in states if they do not accept the new Medicaid dollars to cover more people.¹ Idaho has not yet taken steps to accept these funds. Today Idaho KIDS COUNT released a new [infographic](#) to illustrate how two hypothetical Idaho families would fare in the absence of the Medicaid option.

In 2014, uninsured Americans in *every* state within a certain income bracket will receive tax credits to help them purchase coverage. This will keep these middle-income families healthier and more economically secure should they face a medical emergency. The piece of this policy designed for families that fall below this income bracket is through a state’s Medicaid program. Each state must decide whether or not to accept these *optional* Medicaid funds that are available to increase coverage.

In an illustrative example from Idaho KIDS COUNT, an uninsured married couple with two children that earns \$31,680 per year will receive a tax credit of \$10,206 to purchase coverage. This coverage will provide access to preventive care and economic security. An Idaho family of the same size with an income of just \$23,155 will earn too little to qualify for a tax credit. Without the Medicaid option, it will be practically impossible for the second set of parents to afford health insurance. Meanwhile, families with higher wages will receive help paying for parental coverage. (The children in both families would qualify for the Idaho Health Plan Coverage.)

“Idaho’s families want to have the security of knowing they can get the health care they need without facing devastating medical bills. We also want our state to have laws that are fair to everyone and don’t play favorites,” said Lauren Necochea, Director of Idaho KIDS COUNT, “Accepting the Medicaid dollars would bring Idaho closer to those goals.”

Allowing more Idahoans to access Medicaid coverage would have positive fiscal impacts. Idaho state and county budgets would see a net savings of \$479 million over the next 10 years due to reduced spending on emergency care for the uninsured. We currently pay for this care through property taxes, state funds, and higher health insurance premiums.

See the new infographic at: http://idahokidscount.org/uploads/idaho_coverage_gap_families.pdf.

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Idaho KIDS COUNT is a nonprofit program bringing data and research to conversations that affect Idaho's children. A member of the national KIDS COUNT Network, it receives funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Idaho KIDS COUNT is a program of Mountain States Group, Inc., a 501(c)3 community resource organization.

¹ Alonso-Zaldivar, Ricardo. “A big Medicaid gap looms in Obama health care law.” Associated Press. Available at: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/2013/07/01/2639099/a-big-medicaid-gap-looms-in-obama.html#storylink=cpy>