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(S.D.)-Health Care Officials Urge Medicaid Expansion



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/24/2013 08:17 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - Doctors and directors of health care facilities say South Dakota should expand its Medicaid program to provide health insurance to thousands more low-income people.

They told a state task force that people who are currently uninsured wait too long to get medical care and wind up in emergency rooms getting expensive care.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed the task force to study the advantages and disadvantages of expanding the Medicaid program to cover an estimated 48,000 additional people. The group will submit a report to the governor and the Legislature by Sept. 15.

The Legislature this year accepted the governor's recommendation to delay a decision on expanding Medicaid.

Under the federal health overhaul, states have the option of expanding Medicaid as part of the effort to provide more people with insurance.