

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Division of Epidemiology & Laboratory Services**

**ELS Base Budget Recommendation**  
**Opposition Statements**  
**January 22, 2009**

**A. Forensic Toxicology (-\$780,000 FY10)**

Ref #O-119 Add Back 94

Not acceptable

This decrease eliminates all restricted general funding from the Bureau of Forensic Toxicology. The result would be the elimination of all DUI testing for law enforcement agencies. The Bureau is currently funded by receiving a portion of the driver's license reinstatement fee one incurs after a driving under the influence infraction. The fine is currently at \$2200. This fee would have to be doubled to create the revenue needed to partially fund the Bureau. Additionally, fees cannot be collected from those who are those who are deceased, criminals or indigent.

**B. Eliminate Health Dept subsidy of other State Depts for Chemical and Environmental Services (-\$333,000 FY09/\$1,000,000 FY10)**

Ref #O-118 Add Back 62

Not acceptable

The Bureau of Chemistry and Environmental Services has \$1M of state general fund dedicated to work completed for the Dept of Environmental Quality. This is a historic account amount created when the UDOH and UDEQ were separated in 1991. Funding is used to complete testing for regulatory purposes, including EPA and other federal compliance measures. Thus, this is double cut, one for UDOH and one for UDEQ as this testing would still need to be performed and thus paid for by UDEQ.

Acceptable alternative

\$100,000 cut in FY09 and \$200,000 in FY10 (per Governor's budget)

**C. Replace General Fund with 50% of fee increases proposed (-\$615,300 FY10)**

Ref # O- 91 Add Back 47

Not acceptable

Newborn screening services are 100% funded by the fees collected. These budget reductions would dramatically under-fund this service and cause a 30% reduction of the number of newborn screening tests that could be completed on each newborn. The number of tests would be reduced from 38 disorders to 28. With the addition of cystic fibrosis to the screening panel this month, Utah has finally met the March of Dimes minimum benchmark for newborn metabolic disorder screening.

**D. Make Laboratory Improvement Program Self-Sustaining (-\$439,500 FY10)**

Ref #O 99 Add Back 45

Not acceptable

This cut would affect the Technical Services Section of the Utah Public Health Laboratory and essentially eliminate this service within the laboratory. Technical Services supports all other sections of the Laboratory by completing duties such as sample receiving, glass ware washing, data entry, etc. Consider a study to examine the feasibility to increasing lab fees to cover this service.

**E. Enforcement of Food Sanitation Rules (-\$34,200 FY09/- \$102,500 FY10)**

Ref # O 53 Add Back 38

Not acceptable

This cut would reduce the Environmental Sanitation effort at the UDOH by 50%. Additionally, this would cut all assistance to local health departments in regards to the 17 statewide environmental sanitation regulations. Statewide consistency for business compliance to regulation would be seriously impaired.

Acceptable alternative

\$150,000 reduction to LHD for Environmental Sanitation

Eliminate \$12,500 to each of Utah's 12 local health departments for supporting the enforcement of Utah's 17 environmental sanitation regulations. Fees assessed at the local health department level could replace this loss.

**F. State Epidemiologist (-\$70,000 FY09/- \$210,000 FY10)**

Ref # O 53 Add Back 35

Not acceptable

This cut would result in the loss of the State Epidemiologist, a physician with training in infectious disease and the study of the distribution of diseases and health patterns. The State Epidemiologist is critical to the State's preparedness and pandemic influenza prevention efforts.

**G. Control and Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (-\$51,700 FY09/- \$155,000 FY10)**

Ref # O 51 Add Back 39

Not acceptable

Loss of funding for STD education efforts focused at physicians, other health care providers and high-risk youth in detention and other correctional facilities. There were over 6,000 cases of sexually transmitted disease in Utah in 2008, more than any other communicable disease.

**H. Eliminate Rabies Testing (-\$40,000 FY09/- \$79,000 FY10)**

Ref # B46 Add Back 64

Not acceptable

This funding set back would eliminate the Utah Public Health Lab's capacity to conduct rabies testing. Testing for rabies in suspect animals would no longer be available within the state of Utah. Rabies testing is available from other laboratories in the region, but not in the state. The increased time to return test results may cause the unneeded administration of rabies vaccine or immune globulin. The loss of staff will also increase turn-around time on a variety of respiratory diseases, including influenza, parainfluenza, adenovirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

For more information contact:

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