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Wellness in Nebraska Act Introduced

(AP) - Nebraska would use its state Medicaid program and private health insurers to cover low-income residents, under a new proposal in the Legislature.

Supporters unveiled the "Wellness in Nebraska" Act on Tuesday as they prepare for another attempt to expand coverage under the federal health care law.

The measure would offer traditional Medicaid coverage to residents who make less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level. Residents who make between 100 and 138 percent would buy private insurance in the federal marketplace, but with Medicaid dollars covering most of their premiums and copays. Their share of the cost could be waived if they participate in a wellness program.

Opponents in the Legislature blocked an attempt last year to pass a Medicaid expansion bill.

Associated Press