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Dr. Thurston has been a policy analyst, consultant and health economist for the Utah Department of Health for the past six years. In his current role, he serves as a policy advisor and executive staff for health system reform efforts in the State of Utah. He worked closely with the Huntsman administration and the Utah legislature to develop Utah's health system reform efforts. He continues to serve in this role under Governor Herbert.

Before joining the state, Dr. Thurston was on the faculty of the Department of Economics at Brigham Young University. He has published several articles on health care markets in nationally recognized economics journals.

Dr. Thurston has a Masters and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University, and an undergraduate degree in Spanish and Agribusiness Management from Brigham Young University. His areas of specialty include insurance markets, health care provider markets, labor markets, and public finance/economics.

He is a life-long resident of Utah. He has native-level fluency in Spanish and was a Fulbright Scholar teaching economics in Argentina in 2001.