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Creating a 21st Century Intelligent
Health System in Missouri



Center for Health Transformation
Better health, lower cost

Legislative Solutions

- Senate Bill 306, or the Show-Me Health Coverage program, is health insurance legislation sponsored by Sen. Tom Dempsey, a Republican from St. Peters.
- The proposal utilizes a commitment from the Missouri Hospital Association to provide approximately \$50 million a year to provide health care to Missourians.
- The money, which comes from funds Missouri hospitals currently receive to provide care to uninsured patients called the Disproportionate Share of Hospitals (DSH) payments, would allow the state to leverage an additional \$90 million in federal funding.
- In addition to utilizing the increased funding levels to expand coverage, the Show-Me Health Coverage engages private sector insurance providers to deliver more efficient services to the uninsured, as opposed to merely reinstating state-provided coverage.
- The proposal would expand coverage to more than 35,000 Missourians, without a tax increase.

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Caring for Missourians

- Caring for Missourians is a legislative initiative that would provide an annual appropriation of more than \$39 million to increase by 20 percent the number of health professional graduates Missouri's public universities and community colleges produce each year.
- After five years that would equate to more than 900 additional health care professionals, including 31 physicians, 30 pharmacists, 489 nurses and 288 allied health professionals.
- According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, more than 500,000 nurses will be needed by 2025 to keep up with patient demand. Yet, last year alone, Missouri's three public nursing schools turned away 225 qualified applicants because of a simple lack of space.
- Caring for Missourians is a cooperative effort involving all public colleges and universities to provide multiple options for students, from postsecondary certificates through medical doctors. It responds to market demand by targeting funds to the highest health care needs.
- According to the Missouri Department of Higher Education, training more health care workers will increase income for Missourians. In fact, the economic impact of Caring for Missourians is \$53,099,850, based on the median income total from one graduating class alone.

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Implementation of Health Information Technology

- The Missouri Chamber supports legislation that would encourage the expansion of health information technology to make the delivery of health care services less costly and more efficient.
- Such a system will allow a patient's health history to be readily available and reduce the number of incidents of medical waste, fraud and abuse.
- Access to health information such as pricing and quality outcomes will also help consumers make more educated and cost-effective health care decisions.

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Limit Government Mandated Healthcare

- Each year, numerous legislative proposals are filed to mandate health care coverage. While many are well-intentioned, these mandates drive up the cost of health care coverage, forcing many employers out of the market entirely.
- The Missouri Chamber supports legislation that would implement a review of existing state health care mandates.

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Long-term Care

- 44 percent of all Americans will need long-term care at some point in their lifetimes, and more than 50 percent of women will need long-term care during their lifetimes, making this health issue one of the most significant facing our health care system.
- In 2007, Missouri passed legislation allowing Missouri residents to deduct 100 percent of the cost of their long-term care insurance through an initiative called the Partnership Program. Previously, residents were only able to deduct 50 percent of the costs.
- In addition, for every dollar that a long-term care Partnership Plan pays out in benefits, a dollar of personal assets can be protected should the individual be forced to apply for Medicaid.
- The Missouri Chamber has invested significant time and resources into educating Missouri employers and encouraging them to make long-term care insurance available to their employees.
- Transferring citizens to an insurance program is far less expensive than what the state will face down the road in providing long-term care for our ever-growing aging population.

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Market-Driven Healthcare

- As the force providing the majority of health insurance coverage for Missourians, Missouri employers play an important role in the health care debate.
- The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry has developed an internal health insurance agency that focuses on providing employers with consumer-driven health insurance solutions as a means to stabilize health insurance costs.
- The Missouri Chamber believes that getting the end-user back into the process of making health decisions is critical to any discussion about health care delivery and cost containment.

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