

HEALTHCARE ISSUES



Every Missourian – indeed every American - should be entitled to adequate health care. Yet the US stands almost entirely alone among developed nations lacking universal health coverage. And now potential repeal of the landmark Affordable Care Act threatens to deprive 20 million people of insurance. In addition, Missouri’s refusal to close the coverage gap by expanding Medicaid leaves 300,000 additional Missourians uninsured.

Retaining the ACA protects insurance for at-risk Americans.

Individuals with pre-existing conditions are virtually uninsurable without the Affordable Care Act. And young people – many struggling with college debt and fewer job opportunities – benefit from being able to retain health coverage under their parents’ insurance plans until age 26.

Missourians would benefit from Medicaid expansion.

Medicaid expansion would provide health insurance for Missourians earning up to 138% of the poverty rate (\$26,000 for a family of 3). These families currently earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but too little to receive subsidies in the ACA marketplace. Refusal to expand the program costs an estimated 700 lives each year and deprives Missouri women of over 4,000 mammograms and 14,000 Pap smears.

Medicaid expansion is good for the Missouri economy.

The federal funds for Medicaid represent Missouri taxes that are currently going to other states because the Missouri legislature refuses to accept them. Over 10 years, expansion will save at least \$348 million in state tax dollars, bring nearly \$20 billion of federal funds, and create 24,000 new jobs.

Expanding Medicaid saves federal tax dollars too.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office found that the health reform law will reduce the federal deficit by \$109 billion over 10 years, while generating additional economic activity that generates yet more tax dollars.

What to Do Next:

Monitor the action of the new administration on repeal or modification of the Affordable Care Act. Be ready to contact your senators and representatives in DC with your opinion on any changes.

Contact your state legislators urging them to approve federal funding to expand Medicaid when that proposal is being heard in Jefferson City.



National Council of Jewish Women
St. Louis Section