



### The Budget Bill Is Bad for Missouri

The "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" will terminate health coverage, drive up costs and cut care across the country — eliminating health coverage for nearly 16 million people<sup>1</sup> and resulting in over 51,000 preventable deaths nationwide.<sup>2</sup> If Congress charges ahead with either the Senate or House version of the bill, at least 210,000 Missourians will lose health coverage,<sup>3</sup> and Missouri's uninsured rate will increase by 50%.<sup>4</sup>

### The budget bill threatens the health and financial security of Missourians in every community:

- Makes the largest cut to Medicaid in history, gutting a whopping \$859 billion from Medicaid<sup>5</sup> and the low-income families, workers, veterans and people with disabilities who rely on it for their care, including 1,268,000 children and adults in Missouri.<sup>6</sup>
- **Drains \$349 billion from Marketplace coverage,** jeopardizing small businesses and entrepreneurs in Missouri.
- Forces another \$500 billion in mandatory cuts to Medicare by triggering federal spending laws on top of the Medicaid cuts that will already impact seniors and people with disabilities who are also covered by Medicare (dual-eligibles).

### The budget bill will wreak havoc on Missouri's health system and economy

Missouri will be forced to offset budget holes caused by this bill by terminating coverage for families, eliminating essential health services, and cutting provider rates so drastically that doctors and hospitals are forced to close their doors — particularly in rural communities.

Hospitals like Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia and Lafayette Regional Health Center in Lexington will be at greater financial risk of closing due to Medicaid cuts in the bill.8

Congress should reject these harmful cuts and instead take steps to protect health coverage programs that serve as lifelines for Missourians.

June 2025 Fact Sheet

## The budget bill will roll back the last decade of improvements to Missouri health coverage and care

MO HealthNet (Missouri's version of Medicaid) will face major cuts, forcing the state to make tough decisions about rolling back the services it provides — including dental care, prescription drugs and substance abuse treatment. The bill would also raise costs for Missouri's low-income seniors and people with disabilities who have Medicare coverage but also rely on MO HealthNet to help pay for out-of-pockets costs and access services not covered by Medicare. These cuts undermine the core financial backbone of Missouri's health care system, as MO HealthNet pays for a significant portion of care and services at local clinics and hospitals and serves as a critical engine for the state's economy.

### MO HealthNet covers 1,268,000 children and adults:9



1 in 5 Missouri residents. 10



**573,000 children** — 42% of all children in Missouri.<sup>11</sup>



237,000 seniors and people with disabilities in Missouri. 12

The Marketplace will be undermined in its mission to provide access to health care for Missourians who do not qualify for MO HealthNet and do not have affordable coverage through their employers. The bill would make it harder for Missourians to buy their own health coverage through the Marketplace without preexisting condition exclusions. Marketplace coverage provides comprehensive health benefits, including cancer screenings and treatment for diabetes and high blood pressure. The bill was also written with the assumption that Congress will allow enhanced premium tax credits to expire, which will make coverage even more unaffordable for Missourians.

### The Marketplace provides:



Coverage for **417,000 Missouri residents.**<sup>13</sup>



Coverage for **28,000 small-business owners** in Missouri and **47,000 self-employed** Missouri residents.<sup>14</sup>



Premium tax credits to help 95% of Missouri enrollees pay their premiums.<sup>15</sup> The budget bill will harm Missouri families, workers, and small businesses by wrapping health coverage and care in red tape, undermining critical consumer protections, and making health care unaffordable.

Making public and private coverage more expensive, harder to get and keep
The bill will impose higher out-of-pocket costs and cumbersome verification procedures
for both MO HealthNet and the Marketplace. It will also eliminate automatic enrollment
and shorten the annual open enrollment period for the Marketplace, threatening coverage
for the 188,000 people in Missouri who will no longer be able to automatically re-enroll
in their Marketplace plans from year to year. 16 Around 51,000 additional Missourians will

become uninsured if Congress fails to renew enhanced premium tax credits that help them

Kicking working people off coverage by creating bureaucratic barriers
The act will attack Missouri's successful Medicaid expansion, which covers 348,000
Missourians. In 2020, Missourians voted to provide Medicaid coverage to residents who earn less than \$21,597 per year. The act will make it hard for these Missourians to keep their coverage, requiring them to reverify they are eligible every six months.

afford plans offered through the Marketplace. 17

The act also will impose the most onerous work reporting requirements ever attempted, requiring workers to prove that they have one or more jobs that meet the hourly minimum or that they are exempted. Based on the experience of states that previously – and unsuccessfully — tried to implement work reporting requirements, an estimated 110,000 people are at risk of losing their coverage in Missouri, oincluding seasonal farm and hospitality workers, caregivers, students, and people with disabilities. An estimated 280 avoidable deaths will occur in Missouri each year when adults lose coverage because of work reporting requirements.

- Rolling back consumer protections for children

  For children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the act will eliminate current bans on annual and lifetime caps, enrollment waiting periods, and lockout periods for families who miss a premium payment because they cannot keep up with the cost of coverage.
- Raising costs for the poorest and most vulnerable Missourians covered by Medicare

MO HealthNet helps about 161,000 seniors and people with disabilities afford their Medicare expenses, 22 including premiums and out-of-pocket costs when they see a doctor or need a hospital stay. The act will eliminate commonsense approaches like automatic data verification and streamlining applications, which will make it harder for these Missourians to get the help they need to pay for their health care.



MISSOURI'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WILL LOSE AN ESTIMATED

# \$1.7 BILLION

PER YEAR IN FEDERAL FUNDING

# The budget bill will create a crisis for Missouri's health system and state budget

With over 210,000 Missourians set to lose access to their MO HealthNet and Marketplace coverage, Missouri's health care system will lose an estimated \$1.7 billion per year in federal funding, making it nearly impossible for the state to maintain current levels of coverage, benefits, and payments to providers. Missouri taxpayers will have to spend at least that much each year to cover additional uncompensated care costs at hospitals and clinics that provide health care services to newly uninsured residents who lack the ability to pay. The loss of federal funding will cause at least 18,400 total job losses (including jobs outside the health care sector) and \$2.1 billion in reduced GDP in the state.

The act could eliminate Missouri's flexibility to fund MO HealthNet in a way that works best for the state by freezing taxes on health care providers at current rates. This will leave Missouri with few options to address budget shortfalls and meet future demands resulting from hardships caused by storms, public health emergencies and economic downturns.

- Missouri has leveraged provider taxes to fund MO HealthNet since 1992, but its tax authority must be renewed in 2029.<sup>25</sup>
- While provisions in the House and Senate version of the bill are subject to change, but these changes could cost Missouri up to \$1.62 billion in state provider taxes. When combined with federal funds, proposed changes could reduce funding available for Medicaid by up to \$4.5 billion.<sup>26</sup>

#### Cuts will make it much harder for Missouri to fund:

- 2 in 5 births for Missouri mothers.<sup>27</sup>
- 2 in 3 Missouri nursing home residents.<sup>28</sup>
- Hospital services at 100 Missouri hospitals.<sup>29</sup> For example, MO HealthNet pays for 18% of all hospital services at Excelsior Springs Hospital and 17% of all hospital services at Cox North Hospital in Springfield.<sup>30</sup>

# The Senate should reject this ill-conceived proposal and instead vote to protect access to MO HealthNet, the Marketplace and Medicare so that:

#### **CHILDREN IN MISSOURI**

Have access to newborn care, checkups, care for diabetes and asthma, and more.

Stay healthy and ready to learn, miss fewer school days, are more likely to graduate, and earn more as adults.<sup>31</sup>



#### **FAMILIES IN MISSOURI**

Have access to cancer screenings, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and diabetes and blood pressure medications.

Have less risk of medical debt and eviction and can better afford to buy groceries or pay rent.<sup>32</sup>







#### **SENIORS IN MISSOURI**

Have access to nursing home care, transportation to medical appointments, and home health services.

Stay healthy and receive needed care in their homes and communities.



The bill's proposed cuts to MO HealthNet, the Marketplace and Medicare are direct attacks on the health and financial security of Missouri residents and run counter to the will of the vast majority of voters from across political parties.<sup>33</sup>

- 90% of Missouri voters want a "strong, sustainable Medicaid program."34
- 69% of Missouri voters oppose cutting funding for Medicaid.35
- **82% of adults nationwide** including 67% of Republicans want Congress to maintain or increase Medicaid spending.<sup>36</sup>

Congress has the responsibility to stand with families in Missouri and across the country by rejecting these cuts.

#### **Endnotes**

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