



Missouri Senate Bill 28: Rationing Health Care for Sick and Vulnerable Missourians

Senate Bill 28, introduced by Senator David Sater (R-Cassville), would put into motion a process that could slash funding for Missouri's Medicaid program. A decrease in funding would have devastating impacts on Missouri's most vulnerable citizens.

What does SB 28 do?

SB 28 could drastically cut federal funding for our state's Medicaid program.

Under this plan, Missouri would seek a "block grant," meaning a state would only get a pre-set amount of money from the federal government for our Medicaid program, regardless of actual health care costs, even in an unexpected emergency such as a flu pandemic or natural disaster. Under federal proposals, the state would see a **30-40% decrease** in federal funding within 10 years.

The only way the state could absorb these federal funding cuts would be to deny health care to our most vulnerable children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

What is at risk under SB 28?

Cutting Medicaid funding will hurt Missouri's most vulnerable citizens. It's important to remember who is enrolled in Medicaid in Missouri – primarily children, pregnant women, seniors, and people with disabilities. If the state chooses to start rationing or denying needed care, the consequences will be devastating: worsening health, preventable hospitalizations, and avoidable deaths.

SB 28 also puts our state's financial security at risk. State officials' hands will be tied in the face of any unexpected health crisis.

Why is Medicaid important?

Medicaid is a lifesaving program for many Missourians. Most of Missouri's Medicaid participants are children, seniors, pregnant women, and people with disabilities who have no other options for health care.

Medicaid has broad benefits, including keeping people healthier, improving children's educational achievements, and allowing older adults to stay in their homes.

Medicaid is also an essential part of our state's health care system. Without Medicaid, hospital emergency rooms would be even more overwhelmed with sick and uninsured patients, and health care costs would increase for everyone.