

News from the Office of Representative Sara Lampe

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News from the Office of Representative Sara Lampe

April 23-26, 2007

Dear Rachel,

With only 14 legislative days left in this session, we as minority members continue to ask why Missourians' Medicaid coverage has not been restored. We must not give up the fight for quality, affordable health care for working Missouri families.

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The MO HealthNet Plan

Voices of faith from across the state came together in Jefferson City on April 22 and 23 in a public forum. These churches joined to declare distress over inaction by government to restore Medicaid to our state's low-income, disabled and elderly citizens. When the cuts were enacted, Missourians were told that money was not available for the Medicaid program. Now that the Governor and majority leadership are boasting of a surplus in state funds, these church groups are calling on them to restore Medicaid services to those needy citizens.

Rep. Sara Lampe



"We all recognize, in our hearts, that we are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us."

-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas

Did You Know...

College women outperform men in every field of academics, including math and science.

Members of ten different denominations have set their differences aside and united in an effort to reinstate Medicaid to those 400,000 Missourians who lost coverage or services in 2005.

The following literature provided to the legislators summarizes the effects of MO HealthNet:

MO HealthNet (SB577) is the WRONG Prescription for Missouri!

It does little to help those cut from Medicaid in 2005. The proposal only restores about 10% of the disabled workers and children who were cut in 2005, ignoring the remaining 90,000 adults and children who lost their Medicaid coverage.

"Pay for Performance" could leave many without health care. Linking a provider's payments to their patients' health outcomes could give many doctors an incentive not to treat the most seriously ill - since treating patients with a poor prognosis might lower their doctor's "performance" ranking.

Managed care doesn't make sense for the elderly and people with disabilities. Managed care plans are usually not prepared to handle the extensive, ongoing and expensive health needs of the elderly and those with disabilities. Furthermore, many of these consumers combine Medicare and Medicaid coverage, and only their doctors, not the insurance providers, can coordinate these patients' care.

Certain medical services, such as vision care, dental care and physical therapy, would have to be earned. The plan does not say how this would work, but somehow the State will need to monitor individuals' weight, smoking habits, ability to keep appointments, etc. Unfortunately, some goals may be reasonable for some but unattainable for others. Also, services such as physical therapy are medically necessary for many individuals with disabilities, and should not have to be earned.

The "Health Care Homes" plan spends \$5 million on new bureaucracy without ensuring necessary care for patients. The plan requires patients to work with a "health care advocate," who would coordinate each patient's treatment plan, but the bill does not define who would be qualified to serve as a "health care advocate." If

Women make only 80 percent of what their male peers earn one year out of school.

Women make only 69 percent of men's salaries ten years after graduation.

Women's average earnings are 77 cents to a man's dollar and are actually less than they were ten years ago.

*EMILY'S List

Listen to an audio clip of me speaking on the floor about comprehensive sex education.



My interns, Rachel Stevens and Cara Bates, with Missouri Supreme Court Judge Mary Rhodes Russell

Here is an audio clip of me speaking about ABCTE certification during a floor debate on March 8.

Congratulations to...

Crista Hogan on her reappointment to the

the "advocate" is really someone employed by managed care companies, not a primary care physician, patients may have less access to care and more red tape to deal with. Only qualified medical professionals should make decisions about patient's care.

Time is RUNNING OUT for Missouri's poor and disabled citizens!

Health care for Missouri's families should be a priority in 2007.

School-Based Clinicians Program

This session I have worked closely with advocates of the Greene County school-based clinicians program. The program started in 1999 after the Columbine shootings to aid students in Greene County struggling with emotional and mental health issues. I have received dozens of letters from high school students, parents and teachers offering personal testimony about how the program has positively affected their lives.

Now, the funding for this program is at risk. House Appropriations Bill 11 provided the funding necessary to keep this program alive. However, when the bill came to the Senate floor, that money was stripped out. It is now up to a joint conference committee to decide the fate of the school-based clinicians program.

I have worked closely with Karen Scott, Susie Henderson and Patti Moore, who have spent numerous hours at the Capitol this session advocating for the program. I hope our efforts to provide safe and supportive environments for students in our community will be reflected in the joint conference committee's decision. The two Representatives from the minority party serving on the conference committee are also supportive of providing the money originally allocated in the budget.

Teaching Standards

The House took up and passed HCS/SB 64. The original senate bill modifies several sections of the state statute relating to education. The House Committee Substitute includes several other bills, including HB 620, the ABCTE mandate bill. I

Missouri Hispanic Business, Trade and Culture Commission. She will be working with trade and investment issues relevant to the state's Hispanic business community.

Jennie Ratcliff for receiving Springfield's 2007 Teacher of the Year award. I would also like to congratulate the other finalists, Julie Armstrong, Michael Carr, Rick Snyder and Jim Whytlaw. I fought this week on the floor to establish standards that these excellent teachers live up to each day. For more information, see the article on Teaching Standards.

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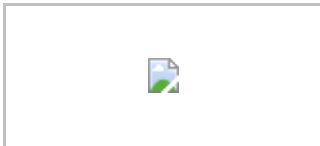
oppose the ABCTE mandate language in the bill. The ABCTE certificate, if implemented, would allow alternative certification for those educating our children. This would weaken the standards already in place and allow individuals into classrooms that have not completed rigorous coursework.

I offered an amendment for statewide teaching standards to ensure that only quality teachers are placed in our classrooms. The education of our children is one of the most important issues we face in this legislative body. Once again, I fought hard on the floor for statewide teaching standards to be added to the language of the bill. Though my amendment failed, I will continue the fight to make Missouri schools the best that they can be.

The bill will return to the Senate for further action and it will likely go to conference.

Thank you for your interest in Missouri government. I hope this newsletter is a useful resource for you.

Sincerely,



Sara Lampe
Missouri House of Representatives

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