

driving habits? Does Lyons know the safety of the home environment or whether the child played outside alone? Lyons does know quotes from one of the most liberal magazines in America, *The New Yorker*. He quotes one writer from the same magazine as saying that most Americans want a limit on guns: "A small minority feels with a fanatic passion that there shouldn't be one" — "the majority of people in favor of gun sanity care about other things" ... "the gun crazy think about guns all the time." Marvelous. Now, we have gun sanity people (those who want them destroyed) and gun crazy people (those who wish to abide by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights).

I wonder if the "car crazy" think about cars all the time and I wonder how they would vote if they were told they could only have one car and it would go only 40 mph? Suppose the lady had been driving her auto 75 mph, lost control of it, ran through a guard rail, turned the car over several times and killed herself but the child survived. Would Lyons' headline have been: "Rutledge represents America's auto cult"?

Personally, I wish Lyons would sell or destroy his guns. He has too many. He is not unsafe and thus, he needs none. The idea that a lady might be accosted on a street in Idaho or someone kick in the door of Lyons' house is unlikely.

Except possibly the rapist or the doper in need of money to buy his/her next fix or an unhappy suitor or ex-husband or jealous neighbor or a terrorist.

David Turner
Lamar

Irresponsible

Despite recent assertions by Rep. Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage, (*Globe*, Jan. 6, "Medicaid expansion remains issue in Missouri"), expanding Medicaid would not take money from education in our area — in fact, it would actually increase the amount of state money

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available for education or other services.

Medicaid is paid for by both federal and state funds. Missouri already pays for some populations, like pregnant women, to be covered at a higher income level than required. If Missouri expands Medicaid, the federal government would pay a higher proportion of the state's Medicaid costs, thereby reducing costs to the state.

This shift, combined with how the state pays for its Medicaid services, would actually save the state of Missouri more than \$100 million each year — even after the state of Missouri is required to pay 10 percent of expansion costs. This savings does not even take into account the increased jobs and economic activity — and subsequent revenue to the state — that would be created by Medicaid expansion.

Rep. Flanigan is right that Missouri has and will continue to face tight budgets. So it's irresponsible for legislators to wait any longer to participate in a program that will not only provide much-needed health care coverage for our residents but will strengthen our budget to provide education as well. Missouri can't afford not to expand Medicaid.

Diana Harper
NAMI Joplin president

solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God.'

Psalms 30:2

We the People

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