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HATS OFF
TO READING
Photo by Shannon Putnam

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Medicaid Expansion is the right answer

Until last year, I worked as a housekeeper but had to resign due to my health issues. I am unable to get the care I need because I can't afford health insurance and don't qualify for Medicaid under the current program.

Speaker Todd Richardson in his response to the State of the State address mentioned out of control

Medicaid spending as a reason to not to expand Medicaid in Missouri.

Speaker Richardson wants you to believe that Missouri cannot afford to help some of its most vulnerable, the working poor, when in reality the Federal dollars Missouri would receive would actually reduce the state's costs. Other states that have expanded Medicaid have seen this saving immediately. Additionally, these states have seen revenues increase and jobs created by expansion.

Why are we letting other states have our tax dollars when they could be sent back to Missouri to help our friends, family and community? Not just those who would now be eligible for the medical care they deserve, but in so many other areas. The money saved on Medicaid spending can be used for other programs in Missouri. Lower costs, higher revenues, and better healthcare for the hard-working families of Missouri is what we could have if the Missouri Legislature

would give the right answer and expand Medicaid.

Expanding Medicaid would protect our local hospital and allow me to get the care I need so I can go back to work. Representative Tila Hubrecht and Senator Doug Libla should act to help close the Coverage Gap.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.mohealthcareforall.org or calling 877-383-8884 toll free.

*Thank you,
Julie Bailey
Dexter, Mo.*