

Letters to the editor

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/a-winning-compromise-on-medicaid-expansion/article_07c5c164-7803-5229-89cd-c77f01f5ccb3.html

A winning compromise on Medicaid expansion

9 hrs ago



Gov. Eric Greitens stand with Vice President Mike Pence at Fabick Caterpillar in Fenton on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017. Photo by David Carson, dcarson@post-dispatch.com

The excuses are gone for not expanding Medicaid by the Missouri Legislature. President Obama is out of office; furthermore, the GOP Congress has failed to replace and repeal the Affordable Care Act. Most importantly, the people want it.

Neighboring Kansas and other Republican-led states, including Maine, North Carolina and Virginia, now are looking to expand Medicaid eligibility, joining 31 other states and the District of Columbia.

Heck, even Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens hints at a possible crack in the Medicaid expansion door ([editorial "Obamacare for the conservative soul," April 2](#)). The decision has cost Missouri's struggling economy over \$2 billion a year and over 20,000 jobs — to say nothing of improved health outcomes for 270,000 working poor Missourians, who could have become eligible for coverage.



Advertisement (1 of 1): 0:08



Perhaps Greitens should take a page from his friend, Vice President Mike Pence, who, while governor of Indiana in 2015, enacted a conservative Medicaid expansion plan that required recipients pay monthly into a health savings plan that offsets insurance payments.

The Show-Me state has been shown a way to compromise. Democrats and moderate Republicans in the Legislature should take the federal money and act in the common good. It's time to bust the door wide open.

Ed Shew • Lake Saint Louis