

Even conservative Missouri can expand Medicaid

Earl Fuller, Willow Springs Published 2:44 p.m. CT Aug. 14, 2017 | Updated 10:41 p.m. CT Aug. 14, 2017



(Photo: file)

Many in the Springfield area are part of the working poor. They have full time jobs but don't have health insurance and can't afford to buy it. They are just an accident or illness away from financial disaster. And Missouri low income families are being cheated out of health insurance because our Republican controlled state government won't expand Medicaid.

Did you know that Kentucky, one of the most die-hard Republican states in the country, expanded Medicaid? So in Kentucky an individual who works at Walmart for minimum wage can make up to \$16,000/year and qualify for Medicaid. A Kentucky family of 3 can earn up to \$28,000/year and qualify. In Missouri a family of 3 has to earn less than \$4492/year to qualify.

Things don't have to be that way in Missouri. The Republicans in Washington tried all year but could not pass Trumpcare. So the ACA is still the law of the land and states like Missouri can still expand Medicaid. Did you know half of us don't bother to vote. If every low income person in the state registered to vote, and in November 2018 elected new State Representatives and Senators who supported Medicaid expansion, it could happen in 2019.

Most current Missouri legislators are against it. You pay the same federal taxes as people in Kentucky, Ohio, and the 32 states that expanded Medicaid. Why should we be 2nd class citizens in our own country. Vote for change.

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