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Missouri's 'Big Me, Little You' budget

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Posted: Saturday, February 25, 2017 12:00 am

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To the editor:

Cuts in corporate and individual income taxes--estimated at \$800 million by 2021--are responsible for the deficit, NOT medicaid spending.



Kansas' debt has surged by \$2 billion since 2010, with a job loss of 5,600 from June to July 2016. This "live red state experiment" created a monster and Missouri seems determined to create a bigger one. Out of desperation, the Kansas Senate just passed a bill to kill Brownback's 2012 tax cut package.

Missouri's legislative "SCARE" crows, fear mongering about the economic effects of doing the right thing, need to see the wizard. They intend to compensate for tax folly by cutting services to the poor. Next to pulling the wings off flies, the best "chest-thumping" for the morally deficient is weakening the safety net for Missouri's poor and elderly.

They are working to gut Medicaid by making it an insufficient block grant program and by initiating a point system to disqualify 20,000 Missourians, many in

nursing homes.

Missouri's poverty rate has increased by 29 percent in 10 years. The AVERAGE Social Security benefit for retirees is \$16,051. The pay increase for 2016 was zero and \$3 in 2017. Rents increase approximately \$25 per month each year. Low income seniors use the "Circuit Breaker" Senior Property Tax Credit as their emergency money and for medical copays and Medicaid spindowns.

The Senate is promoting legislation to eliminate the "Circuit Breaker" for low income senior renters. The loss of these funds will end the ability to pay Medicaid spindowns for many, resulting in loss of coverage and loss of life.

On Aug. 28, 2012, Missouri exempted from state and local sales tax trucks or tractors registered in excess of 54,000 lbs., and it extended to include materials, replacement parts, and equipment used for repair and maintenance. Corporate gifts like this OBVIOUSLY have NOT helped Missouri's economy, which currently ranks 47th in the nation. More would have been accomplished by raising wages, but that would not fit Missouri's corporate enrichment agenda.



Missouri's state motto reads: "Let the good of the people be the supreme law." It does not say the good of billionaires, politicians or lobbyists. "The people" means you and me who have helped build this state by paying our fair share of taxes, and have earned equitable treatment by state government.

Surely, it is time to reverse that "no sales tax on big trucks" free ride. Those funds would soon cover the budget deficit and pay for damaged roads and infrastructure. Missouri does impose a 4 percent highway use tax but it does not compensate for damage done.

There are 1,300,000 Missourians over 60 years young. Of those registered, 77 percent vote. They would ALL remember the theft of the "Circuit Breaker" and Medicaid. It just might turn "R" voters into Democrats in 2018.

Contact your senators and urge them to block SB 285, SB 28 and SB 17. Help save senior lives.

Proverbs 29:7--"A good person knows the rights of the poor, but wicked people cannot understand such things."

Jan Lancaster

Springfield

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