

# Reader says state should expand Medicaid now

Posted: Saturday, January 23, 2016 12:00 am

To the editor:

The citizens of Missouri continue to suffer because of a handful of state senators. They refuse to expand Medicaid in spite of the facts that expanded Medicaid will bring millions of dollars into the state, save the state money, improve preventative health care and keep rural hospitals open. We need representatives that will put pressure on the legislature to vote on expanding Medicaid.



Letter to the Editor

One of the false arguments is the state can not afford it, in spite of university studies that show it will save money in health care costs and increase employment. Kentucky is held up as an example of cost problems because of expanding Medicaid, but the only study available contradicts that position.

The new Republican governor of Kentucky, after saying he would eliminate the state Medicaid expansion (Kynect), now says he will move the state to HealthCare.gov which is the federal government program for Medicaid expansion. This will keep his pledge to end Kynect, but will not make any significant change in health coverage.

The transfer to HealthCare.gov will cost Kentucky taxpayers about \$23 million. So saving money is not the issue.

As in Missouri, the opposition to expanding Medicaid is only based on politics. Some Republicans continue to keep their pledge to be obstructionists when it comes to programs of the Obama administration no matter the costs in money or health.

It is difficult to predict our health care costs in 2020, but we know what we can expect when Medicaid Expansion happens: the people of Missouri will get better health care and the state will get federal money. The only “negative” is a program coming out of a Democratic administration helps the people of Missouri.

Until voters show they will vote for representatives that represent their interests instead of corporate interests (see: Koch brothers, ALEC, Americans for Prosperity) these obstructionists will continue to cost Missourian’s money and health.

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