

## State lawmakers could save lives

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### Springfield

The Missouri General Assembly has an opportunity to save lives, and the lawmakers are just letting it slip away.

[Recent studies](#) have shown that as many as 700 Missourians will die each year if our legislators continue to block Medicaid expansion.

More than 4,000 women will be forced to miss their mammograms and 14,000 cervical cancer screenings, nearly 13,000 diabetics won't get their medication, and more than 7,700 Missourians will fall victim to bankruptcy because of catastrophic medical care costs.

As a Missourian, this is a disgrace that our government is so willing and unconcerned that so many of our families, friends and neighbors will die as a result of its failure to expand Medicaid access.

But our leaders have the power to make positive change in our state by passing Medicaid expansion in the Show-Me State.

Those 700 Missourians don't have to die as a result of not having access to affordable health care. Our mothers, sisters, wives and aunts shouldn't have to miss life-saving cancer screenings. Diabetics should have access to affordable medications and treatments. And thousands of our neighbors shouldn't have to choose between crippling bankruptcy and medical care.

It is time for our legislators to put politics aside and expand Medicaid.