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Your views: Letters to the editor

Mar 5, 2017



Back-door tactics

Thousands of people in Joplin rely on Medicaid for their health care. Throughout the state, the vast majority of people who are enrolled in Medicaid are children, people with disabilities and seniors. These are the most vulnerable members of our community, and Medicaid is a life-saving program for them.

As a volunteer with NAMI Joplin, an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I see the impact that Medicaid has on those suffering a mental health condition. The majority of our consumers qualify because of their disability and receive medications through Medicaid. SSI and other programs don't pay them enough to live and buy medicines.

A change in Medicaid funding could very well take away this lifeline.

Right now, the Missouri Senate is considering Senate Bill 28, which would radically change the way Medicaid is funded in Missouri by seeking either a block grant or per capita caps. Despite what proponents may say, both of these schemes are really just back-door ways to cut funding for Medicaid.

Each year, the gap between federal funding and actual Medicaid costs would grow. Missouri would be left with two choices: Come up with extra state funding or cut health care.

Given the state's budget shortfall, there is no doubt that the end result of SB 28 would be kicking vulnerable Missourians off their care.

SB 28 could come up on the Senate floor as early as this week.

Missouri's senators, including Joplin's Sen. Ron Richard, should reject this dangerous bill.

Rick Wiseman

NAMI Joplin

Road 'destruction'

I am telling friends and family to avoid driving in Joplin until all repairs and resurfacing is finished. Right now, you can't drive more than three or four blocks in any direction without having to change your route at least once.

While I do understand that roads and sidewalks need repair, I do not understand why so many are happening at the same time. And all are apparently using a skeleton crew at each one. Why can't they combine crews and only work on a few sites until they are finished and then move on to the next?

I can only imagine what it's going to be like when they try to take on Main Street.

Pete Peterson

Joplin

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