

MISSOURI'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY SUPPORTS MEDICAID REFORM

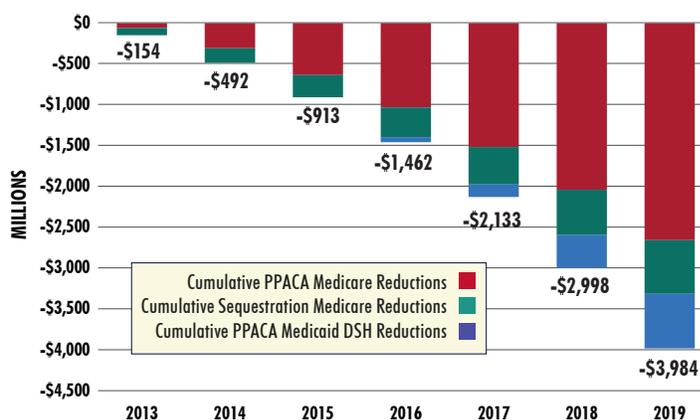
In 2013 and early 2014, the major statewide business organizations, more than 65 local chambers of commerce, other business groups and municipalities endorsed legislative action on Medicaid reform.

Medicaid reform has not been enacted, but payment cuts to Missouri's hospitals continue. The cuts have just begun and will grow every year through 2019. **The situation is serious and threatens the future stability of medical services, business growth, local economies and worker productivity.**

By reforming Medicaid, Missouri would be able to leverage enhanced federal funds to help pay for the program, which would cover more than 95 percent of the cost of newly insured citizens between 2015 and 2020. **Missouri tax dollars – already sent to Washington – are NOT benefitting OUR economy or OUR citizens.** Hospitals and businesses are absorbing the burden of an increasing uncompensated care load – of nearly \$1.2 billion in 2012. Missouri hospitals have been stable economic engines in their communities throughout the recession. And, they are often the largest employers.



HOSPITAL PAYMENT CUTS: 2013 – 2019



Missouri businesses bear the brunt of the uninsured, both on their workers and through cost shifting.

- Working Missouri families deserve to have health insurance coverage, and **three out of four uninsured Missourians are in a working family.**
- A worker with health coverage misses on average **52 percent fewer work days than uninsured workers.**
- Every minute of every day, an uninsured person walks into a Missouri hospital emergency department seeking care – **the most expensive, inefficient way to receive medical care.**
- If nothing is done, the “hidden health care tax” is projected to **shift an additional \$1.1 billion to the private health insurance market** from 2012-2021.
- A report just released by rating agency Fitch, **suggests that providers in states who don't expand Medicaid will be under ratings pressure.** Some hospitals have already experienced a negative outlook change to their bonds.



The challenges to the business community and overall economy are just now beginning. As the amount of hospital payment cuts increases, the negative effects on Missouri will increase as well.

- Missouri ranks **39th in health status in the nation**, compared to its 24th ranking two decades ago. Without improvements in the overall health of Missouri's population, businesses and the state's health care system will not realize the gains of lower health care costs, better health care quality and increased worker productivity.
- Expanded access to health insurance** would allow Missouri to begin to address its poor health status and outcomes and create an opportunity for increased productivity within the state's workforce.