



Capitol Report

July 15, 2021

[Email](#) | [Web Page](#) | [Bills Sponsored](#) | [District 27](#)

Dear Neighbor,

The Missouri Legislature concluded its Special Session to extend the Federal Reimbursement Allowances (FRA) and related allowances, taxes, and assessments necessary for funding MO HealthNet before cost-savings measures are needed by the July 1st deadline.

Currently, the Missouri Supreme Court is hearing arguments in the lawsuit filed earlier this year, three Missouri women filed suit against the state for failing to fund Medicaid expansion, which was approved by voters in August 2020.

Later this year, the legislature will reconvene for a special session to deal with the Congressional Redistricting for our state. I will continue to watch the redistricting committee as they work to find an agreeable way to draw the congressional district lines.

Finally, I want to encourage you to remain safe as COVID-19 is very

active in our state. Please continue to follow CDC guidelines to safeguard yourself and your loved ones. I know it's been a long pandemic, but we will overcome this situation.

It is an honor and a pleasure to represent you and your interest in Jefferson City. Have a great weekend and enjoy the weather!

Yours in Service,

Rich



Medicaid expansion fight begins in Missouri Supreme Court

BY CAMERON GERBER ON JULY 13, 2021

themissouritimes.com

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The battle over [Medicaid expansion](#) reached the [Missouri Supreme Court](#) Tuesday as

attorneys for the state and for members of the expansion population outlined their arguments before a packed courtroom.

A Cole County judge [ruled in favor of the state's argument](#) that it had no obligation to expand the program last month, pointing to the language of last year's Amendment 2 and the lack of a stated funding mechanism. The issue was quickly appealed to the Supreme Court with oral arguments Tuesday.

Attorney Chuck Hatfield argued the case on behalf of the plaintiffs, three mothers who have health conditions that would qualify them under the expansion population. Hatfield said it was the duty of the executive branch to enforce expansion.

"Every provision of the constitution has been approved by a vote of the people at some point in the history of this state. ... This court has consistently held that every doubt and ambiguity should be resolved in favor of the will of the people," Hatfield said. "Here, we ask this court to remind the executive branch that the people, by a vote to amend the constitution, have required the executive branch to enroll our clients in the MO HealthNet program."

Hatfield said the [Department of Social Services](#) (DSS) and the governor would likely comply with the court's decision, noting the department's cooperation in getting the case through to the Supreme Court quickly.

But Solicitor General John D. Sauer, on behalf of the state, argued the legislature's failure to appropriate funds specifically for the expansion population put the topic at an impasse this year.

"If you understand federal Medicaid law and federal regulations, there is no mystery at all about the legislative intent of this," Sauer said. "This was one of the biggest debates in the history of the General Assembly — at the end of all that, every single one of those attempts to clearly and explicitly fund Medicaid expansion was rejected. If they revisit this again next year or the year after that as long as Amendment 2 is on the books, but as for this legislative session there isn't a mystery of what the legislature intended."

While the court gave no indication of a timeline for its decision, Hatfield said he expected a quick ruling.

“We’re thankful that the Missouri Supreme Court agreed to an expedited hearing schedule, as time is certainly of the essence,” Healthcare for Missouri said in a group statement. “More than 275,000 eligible Missourians have been waiting to enroll in and receive benefits under the Medicaid program since July 1st. It’s time to bring this issue to a close and bring clarity to this process.”

The hearing came off the back of amicus briefs filed on behalf of both parties in the House of Representatives. House leadership called on the Supreme Court to uphold Cole County Circuit Judge Jon Beetem’s decision in a brief filed last week, arguing the plaintiffs “invite this court to order the political branches, in perhaps unprecedented fashion, to appropriate money.”

House Democrats opposed the filing, with Minority Floor Leader Crystal Quade decrying leadership’s move to take an official stance without a vote. A brief in support of the plaintiffs filed on behalf of Quade and Assistant Minority Floor Leader Richard Brown followed Monday, saying the prior brief “circumvents the Missouri House’s rules and processes, violates the principles of a democratic republic, and should therefore be disregarded.”

The lawsuit against DSS, Acting Director Jennifer Tidball, and the MO HealthNet Division, among others, was [filed](#) in May. It asked the court to find the lack of funding for the expansion unlawful and sought an injunction to allow the plaintiffs and others who would be eligible to enroll and receive the same treatment as those already covered under the program.

Missourians voted to become the [38th state to expand its Medicaid program](#) in August 2020, moving to cover more than 270,000 people who earn less than \$18,000 a year. Despite [several attempts](#), the legislature did not approve a dedicated fund before passing its budget.

The expansion was slated to take effect July 1.



Gov. Michael Parson signed several bills into law this week. I was present at a few of the signings. This bill was to modify funding for higher education in Missouri.



Both sides agree: redistricting shouldn't be political

The Missouri Legislature will decide congressional redistricting in a special session later this year.

by Jonathan Jain, news@newstribune.com Jul. 7 2021 @ 10:40pm

The Missouri Legislature will decide congressional redistricting in a special session later this year.

Representatives of both parties hope it will be fair, but Democrats concede they don't have much power in the process.

Committees in the House and Senate draw the district maps for Missouri's eight congressional seats every 10 years. Like a normal bill, the final map must be approved by both chambers before the governor can sign it into effect for the 2022 midterm elections.

"We only do this every 10 years, so our institutional knowledge of redistricting — there really is none," said state Rep. Dan Shaul, R-Imperial, the chairman of the House redistricting committee.

While there are mostly Republicans on his committee, Shaul said there is an emphasis to be as nonpartisan and non-confrontational as possible. Through conversations with the Democratic members of the redistricting committee, Shaul said each side understands the other's wants and it should be a smooth process.

State Rep. Jerome Barnes, D-Raytown, is the ranking minority member on the committee, which is made up of eight Republicans and three Democrats. This redistricting process will be unique because Republicans have the Governor's Office and a supermajority in both chambers of the Legislature.

Barnes said the redistricting process shouldn't be political, but it is hard for Republicans not to make it political when they have such a large advantage. He acknowledged the majority party has the power because more Republicans were elected to the Legislature.

Although he said they don't have to listen to him, he thinks Democrats will be able to give some input and not only play defense.

"It all depends on the members on this committee," Barnes said. "I know all of them, and they are not that type to just run flat over you without hearing you through."

Barnes said the members of the committee aren't too extreme, and they understand the responsibility that comes with redistricting.

"It's going to shape Missouri over the next 10 years," Barnes said.

The congressional seats in Missouri are held by six Republicans and two Democrats. Barnes said his goal is to give representation to Democrats in Missouri.

"I know that the Republican Party would probably love to have it 8-0 here in the state of Missouri; that's just the way things go," Barnes said. "The population just doesn't dictate that."

Shaul said the census data will drive the redistricting process.

"It's going to be as pure as can be, and I think everything's on the table," Shaul said. "I think 6-2 is certainly a possibility; 7-1 and 5-3 are also possibilities."

Barnes warned of consequences for Republicans if a 7-1 map is drawn. He said that would weaken other districts currently held by Republicans, and those seats could be in contention.

"If they go to that extreme over there to the right — and I don't think we have those type of people in there — it'll be 7-1, but I don't think that's going to happen," Barnes said.

Regardless of how the seats end up, both sides expressed a desire to keep the process fair and clean.

"Our goal is going to be to make sure that everyone is represented fairly and proportionately in the state of Missouri," Shaul said.

Barnes agreed.

"We have an opportunity here to do the right thing for the state of Missouri," Barnes said. "I'm a positive-thinking person, and I think that's what we're going to do. I wouldn't bet all my life savings on it, but I'm thinking positive."

The earliest Missouri will get the census data is Sept. 30. After that, a special session will be called to pass a congressional district map.

"Being in a special session, we will be basically in our own vacuum," Shaul said. "Historically, redistricting has been done during the legislative session when there can be other bargaining chips put out there. We don't have anything else to work with except for what is in the best interest of the state of Missouri and the map."

"Being in this vacuum, I think we're going to have one of the most pure redistricting events that has taken place in recent history in the state of Missouri," Shaul said.

As Democrats begin their uphill climb with the redistricting process, Barnes maintains a cautious optimism.

"Hopefully, we can move the state forward and not drive it off a cliff," Barnes said.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS





RAYTOWN CHAMBER UNVEILS NEW TOURISM CONNECTION

The Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is excited to announce the expansion of the Tourism side of the Chamber. The Tourism Committee has been hard at work and made recommendations to the Raytown Chamber Board of Directors and with their approval, the Committee has secured the following:

- New Website - www.VisitRaytown.com
 - A New Logo - see above
 - Hashtag - #VisitRaytown
- Facebook Page - @VisitRaytownMO
- Email Address: connect@visitraytown.com
- Mission Statement: The mission of Visit Raytown is to brand and market the Raytown area as a recreation, tourism, and business destination to generate positive economic impact.

Visit our website at
www.visitraytown.com or www.raytownchamber.com



"Working from home has been isolating. I'm ready to get out of that bubble and into the real world."
- Sara Huff receiving her COVID-19 vaccine

**TMC/UH welcomes
WALK-IN appointments
for the COVID-19 vaccine**

**Downtown and Lakewood locations
Monday- Friday 7am-2pm**

COVID-19 Vaccine Walk-In appointments are available at our two hospital campuses (2211 Charlotte and 7900 Lee's Summit Road) 7am to 2 pm Monday through Friday. In addition, one may schedule a vaccine at www.trumed.org or by calling 816-404-CARE.

CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR RETURN!

Want to receive regular updates on your 2018, 2019 or 2020 Individual Income Tax Return?

Give the return tracker application a try!



After you have filed your return, sign up here to receive tracker email or text notifications.



I celebrated a birthday on July 13th. It was an honor to be working on that day for you at your state capitol. Thank you to those who sent birthday well wishes.



[mostopscovid](https://www.mostopscovid.com)

The Pandemic aint over!



But we're getting there!

The reward has been raised to
\$30,000 for Dominic



**GREATER KANSAS CITY CRIME STOPPERS
816-474-TIPS HOTLINE**

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FROM: Det. Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator

SUBJECT: Reward Increase – 9 Year Old Dominic Young Homicide

KANSAS CITY, MO --- The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline continue to seek information in the January 20, 2018 homicide of 9 year old Dominic Young Jr. at 71 Highway and Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd.

Dominic Young Jr. was apparently hit by a stray gunshot while occupying a vehicle driven by his father and died as a result of his injuries. Dominic, his father and brother

were en route to Grandview at the time. The vehicle driven by Dominic's father was hit by gunshots from other vehicles apparently engaged in a gunfight according to statements.

KCPD found a possible crime scene near the intersection where the father said the shooting happened. When the father arrived home in Grandview, Dominic was not responsive. Grandview police initially responded to the father's home and found the boy in critical condition. He was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

A number of community leaders and organizations including State Representative Richard Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus, former City Councilmen Scott Taylor, Scott Wagner, John Sharp; the City of KCMO and Concord Fortress of Hope Church (Pastor Ron Lindsay) have come forward to increase the existing reward in the case up to \$30,000.00. Those leaders are available for comment in regard to the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers Greater Kansas City TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477), TIPS may also be submitted electronically at www.KCcrimestoppers.com, or by downloading our NEW mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores for FREE. Information leading to an arrest and/or filing of charges could be eligible for up to \$30,000.00 in reward money. ALL INFORMATION IS ANONYMOUS.



Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards

Tips Hotline

816-474-8477

Web Tips

www.KCcrimestoppers.com

Free Mobile App

www.P3Tips.com

* A program of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission

My office in Jefferson City is available to assist you with questions you may have about state government or legislative issues. Please call, email or write anytime. If you are unable to reach me, my assistant, Donna Gentzsch is ready to help you. If you are in Jefferson City, come by my Capitol office in room 134, and introduce yourself. The door is always open and I encourage you to visit.

Please forward this email to your friends and family who want to know how what is happening in Jefferson City will impact them here at home.



Rep. Richard Brown

Assistant Minority Floor Leader

MO House of Representatives

201 West Capitol Avenue

Room 134

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone

573-751-7639

Email:

richard.brown@house.mo.gov

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any feedback, questions or ideas!

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)