



Missouri Family
Health Council, Inc.

Building healthy foundations for Missouri families.

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Missouri Family Health Council:

State House Passes Clean FRA but Sets Stage to Fracture Health Safety Net

JEFFERSON CITY (MO) – Ending months of deadlock and political theatrics, the Missouri State House of Representatives finally passed SB 1, a reauthorization of the federal reimbursement allowance (FRA), without denying contraception to Medicaid recipients. Alongside the FRA, however, the House also passed a standalone measure (HB 2) that seeks to eliminate certain providers from participating in the state Medicaid program. The State Senate and Governor have signaled provisions within HB 2 risk federal compliance of the program and could jeopardize its funding. SB 1 was perfected in the Senate last week and is expected to be signed by the Governor. The future of HB 2 is unknown.

Statement from Michelle Trupiano, Executive Director:

“Today, the State House ended one nightmare, but began creating another. While preserving state Medicaid funding through the FRA, the House also moved to risk federal compliance of the program and deny patients their choice of provider by passing HB 2. What started as an attack on birth control has ended with a fight to find access for thousands of Missourians who rely on Missouri Planned Parenthood clinics for family planning services. The health safety net takes us all working together to meet the patient need in our state. Today, Missouri legislators set the stage to fracture that system. Despite these attacks on healthcare, we will continue advocating for our network, our patients, and all Missouri communities in need of access to care,” said Michelle Trupiano, Executive Director of Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.

Background

The federal reimbursement allowance (FRA) is a must-pass funding mechanism responsible for one-third of the current state Medicaid program (MO HealthNet). It is a tax on providers, including hospitals, nursing homes, and others, which generates approximately \$1.6 billion in state tax revenue and returns approximately \$2.9 billion in matched federal funds. Due to its importance, the FRA is usually reauthorized uneventfully, with wide, bipartisan support. For the first time since 1992, however, the legislature failed to pass an FRA, due to an amendment adopted onto the bill that risked federal compliance of the program and destabilization of the state budget. Governor Mike Parson called a special session on this matter and set a deadline to resolve the FRA by July 1, in order to avoid statewide budget cuts.

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[Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.](#) is a private nonprofit organization that champions access for every individual to culturally sensitive, quality, sexual and reproductive health education and services. Our programming is focused on removing cost barriers, improving access, and supporting health centers through quality training, analysis, and collaboration. Our health advocacy seeks to address systemic barriers that decrease health equity and impede access to reproductive and other safety net services. Our statewide network of 95 health centers includes county health departments, federally-qualified health centers, community action agencies, hospital-based clinics, and standalone family planning clinics delivering sexual and reproductive health services throughout Missouri.