



Missouri Family
Health Council, Inc.

Building healthy foundations for Missouri families.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 26, 2021

Contact: mtrupiano@mfhc.org | [314-805-5429](tel:314-805-5429)

**Missouri Family Health Council:
State Senate Preserves Access to Contraception, Safety-Net Providers**

JEFFERSON CITY (MO) – After hours of debate and closed-door negotiations, the Missouri State Senate has greenlighted a version of the state’s federal reimbursement allowance (FRA) free of attacks on contraception and limits on providers. The version passed prohibits only abortifacients used to induce an abortion – a reinforcement of law already in place on the federal level. As a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing health equity and access to reproductive health services in Missouri, we are relieved by this outcome. The bill now heads to the State House, set to convene Monday at 10 A.M. (CST).

Statement from Michelle Trupiano, Executive Director:

“Tonight, the State Senate chose to pass an FRA that removed dangerous language equating birth control to abortion and limiting safety-net providers. This is a win for science, MO HealthNet patients, and all Missourians. We applaud the Senators who put people over politics tonight and ushered in a bipartisan resolution on this. The message is clear: it is not a winning strategy to use birth control – which is essential healthcare – as a bargaining chip,” 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 the Senate convened on it this week.

###

[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.