

## Missouri Patient Advocacy Groups Strongly Opposes Decision to Halt Medicaid Expansion

Missouri Patient Advocacy groups released the following statement on today's announcement that Missouri is withdrawing its State Plan Amendment to expand Medicaid.

"We strongly oppose the actions of Governor Parsons and the Missouri Legislature to halt implementation of Medicaid expansion in Missouri. In August 2020, Missouri residents voted in strong margins to expand healthcare coverage. The Governor and the Legislature are directly contradicting the will of the Missouri voters and playing games with patients' healthcare at a time when quality and affordable coverage is more important than ever.

It is estimated that 275,000 Missourians will gain access to health insurance coverage through Medicaid expansion. Additionally, by not implementing expansion, Missouri is turning down nearly 1.5 billion dollars in federal funding included in the American Rescue Plan Act. It is inconceivable that Missouri lawmakers are refusing to implement Medicaid expansion when the benefits for patients and the state are so clear.

We urge the Governor and Legislature to immediately move ahead with implementation of Medicaid expansion for July 1, 2021."

American Kidney Fund  
American Lung Association in Missouri  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Gateway Hemophilia Association  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National MS Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)