

Missouri Budget Project Email Update *and* Alert

March 6, 2009

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I. TABOR: HJR 23 Sits on House Calendar

HJR 23 still sits on the House Calendar and could be debated at any time. It's important for leadership in the House and Senate to still hear from constituents (organizations and individuals) that they don't want TABOR in Missouri. Key Leadership members include Representative Richard, Senator Shields and Senator Nodler.

II. FY 2009 Supplemental Budget Passes House without CHIP Funding

The House passed the FY 2009 Supplemental Budget this week (HB 14). While the Governor had requested to have \$900,000 in funding for SCHIP included in the supplemental budget to use for outreach to enroll kids who are eligible but not enrolled and to alleviate some of the premium burdens, the House did not include the funding. \$900,000 invested by Missouri would result in a \$5 million federal match. The bill (HB 14) now goes to the Senate.

III. FY 2010 Budget Bills

Now that House has completed work on the FY 2009 Supplemental Budget bill, the debate on the FY 2010 bills will begin. The Governor's Budget Request included funding requests to reduce premiums for SCHIP and increase eligibility for Medicaid to 50 percent of the federal poverty level for low income parents (currently just 17 percent of the poverty level).

The MBP has learned that the House Budget Committee is likely to release House Budget Bills on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in House Hearing Room 3 of the State Capitol Building. The Appropriations Bills are expected to include severe reductions in the Governor's request including:

- Elimination of funding to increase Medicaid eligibility for parents (from 17 percent of the poverty level to 50 percent);
- Elimination of funding to alleviate premiums for SCHIP;
- Elimination of funding required to maintain eligibility for child care assistance at current levels;
- Cuts to Adoption Resource Centers, Diapers for foster children, Crisis Nursery Services and others;
- Core reductions in funding for CPS, ADA and DD Mental Health Services.

Please attend this hearing Monday if you are able. If not, please contact your state House and Senate members and Leadership including the following to urge them to fund these services at the Governor's recommended level.

Contact Information for Leadership:

Representative Richard, 573-751-2173, Ronald.Richard@house.mo.gov

Representative Icet, 573-751-1247, Allen.Icet@house.mo.gov
Senator Shields, (573) 751-9476, charlie_shields@senate.mo.gov
Senator Nodler, (573) 751-2306, gary_nodler@senate.mo.gov

IV. Special Appropriations Bills for the Federal Economic Recovery Funding

Rep. Icet, chairman of the House Budget Committee, has stated that he plans to introduce separate budget/appropriations bills to utilize the Federal Economic Recovery Funding. He has also stated that he believes the federal funding should be utilized for one-time costs, not ongoing needs.

The Missouri Budget Project believes that while some of the federal funding is best utilized for one-time infrastructure development, during this time of economic crisis the federal funding **should also be used to enhance the availability of state services**. Due to the economic situation, revenues have decreased while need has increased. Without an investment of the federal funds in on-going services that is needed to meet the increased demand, Missouri's families will suffer and the economic crisis could be prolonged.

For more detail on why Missouri should use the federal funds for ongoing services see:
<http://www.cbpp.org/2-24-09sfp.htm>

V. Senate Bill 306: The "Show-Me Health Bill"

A Hearing was held this past week in the Senate Committee on Senate Bill 306, introduced by Senator Dempsey. The Missouri Budget Project applauds Senator Dempsey's efforts to increase access to affordable health insurance for Missourians, *however, continues to have significant concerns about SB 306. As described in the attached brief, SB 306 could likely provide fewer services to fewer Missourians; would create new levels of bureaucracy and cost Missouri more than simply expanding eligibility for Medicaid (MO HealthNet).*

VI. Hold the Date: June 9, 2009 Poverty Summit

Hold the Date for the June 9, 2009 *Investing in People Poverty Summit*:

June 9, 2009: Registration begins at 9 am, Summit begins at 10 am

Capital Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City

More Details Available at: <http://www.communityaction.org/2009%20Poverty%20Summit.aspx>

For more information regarding the issues in this update, please contact one of the MBP staff.

Amy Blouin
Executive Director
314.652.1400 (office) 314.518.8867 (cell)

Ruth R. Ehresman
Director of Health & Budgetary Policy
314.652.1400 (office) 314 504.3616 (cell)

Tom Kruckemeyer
Chief Economist
573.636.2581

Heather Lasher Todd
Communications Director
314.652.1400