



For more information:
Amy Blouin, Executive Director,
314-518-8867, or
Traci Gleason, Director of Communications & Public Engagement, 816-872-8133

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Governor's Budget Harms Missouri's Economic Outlook
Statement from Missouri Budget Project Executive Director, Amy Blouin

“By relying on a cuts-only approach to the state’s budget crisis, this proposal fails to invest in the services and infrastructure upon which the economy depends. Quality education is the single most critical investment the state can make. The Governor’s budget proposal continues nearly flat funding for K-12 education, and includes steep cuts to higher education and community colleges.

“While the Governor mentions the need for job creation, these cuts will make it harder for students to get the quality education they need to compete in the global economy and for Missouri to attract jobs to our state. The cuts undermine our economy and hold jobs back, making it more difficult for our state to compete now and in the future.

“Though the sluggish economy has been a factor in the state’s revenue decline, the state’s revenue woes are the result of long-term erosion in state revenue and decisions by state lawmakers to choose tax breaks for big profitable corporations over investing in education, transportation, and safety – investments that boost our economy both in the short- and long-term. Moreover, Missouri’s general revenue remains extremely low by historic measures, resulting in a significant decline in the state’s ability to invest in services.

“The people who came before us made the right decisions to build roads and schools, offer affordable college educations to state residents, and create safe communities. These are the kind of investments we need to help create jobs, but they become increasingly out of reach without increased revenue.”

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The Mission of the Missouri Budget Project is: To advance public policies that improve economic opportunities for all Missourians – particularly low and middle-income families – by providing reliable and objective research, public education and advocacy.

More information is available at www.mobudget.org.