

## Missouri Budget Project Email Update

*April 10, 2009*

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### **I. Senate Appropriations Committee and CHIP funding**

The Senate Appropriations Committee restored funding for many of the critical services to the Health, Mental Health and Social Services Budgets (as compared to cuts made by the House). Notably absent, however, was funding for the **Children’s Health Care Changes that the Governor recommended**.

The Governor recommended using **\$22.7 million in state general revenue** to support access to health care for **27,000 children** by eliminating premiums for children in families between 150 – 225 percent of the FPL, and reducing premiums for children in families with incomes from 226 – 300 percent of the FPL. In addition, a portion of the funding would be utilized to conduct outreach to enroll children who are currently eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, but who remain uninsured.

**What’s Next:** The Appropriations Bill will move to the Senate Floor next week and House Bills 10 and 11 (Containing the Health, Mental Health and Social Services Budget Items) will likely reach the Senate floor for debate on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**What You Can Do: Contact Senators in Support of:**

- **Full Funding for Children’s Health Care**

### **Contact Information for Leadership:**

- Senator Shields, President of the Senate: (573) 751-9476, [charlie\\_shields@senate.mo.gov](mailto:charlie_shields@senate.mo.gov)
- Senator Nodler, Chair Senate Appropriations Committee: (573) 751-2306, [gary\\_nodler@senate.mo.gov](mailto:gary_nodler@senate.mo.gov)
- **\*Don’t forget to call Your Senator Too!**

### **II. TABOR Hearing Postponed**

The Senate Ways & Means Committee postponed the Hearing on HJR 23 – TABOR indefinitely. The MBP will continue monitoring this issue.

### **III. Analysis of Senate Bill 306: “Show-Me Health” Plan**

A comprehensive analysis of SB 306 is attached. This analysis includes some detail of the concerns that the Missouri Budget Project has regarding the bill.

### **IV. General Revenue Update**

Missouri General Revenue Collections, after refunds, increased 6.3 percent in March, but overall have decreased by 0.6 percent during the first nine months of the current fiscal year (FY 2009) to date. Part of the increase in March is likely a result of a 22 percent decline in tax refunds due to slower processing by the State Department of Revenue of Income Tax returns.

Two of Missouri’s three most significant revenue sources had significant declines in March including:

- Individual Income Tax collections fell 4.9 percent and
- Gross Corporate Income tax fell 23.6 percent.

For more detail, see the latest MBP General Revenue report on our website at [www.mobudget.org](http://www.mobudget.org)

**V. Coming Events: Faith & Families Summit on the Capitol April 16, 2009**

Several organizations have organized a Faith & Families Summit at the Capitol Building in Jefferson City next week. Attendees will depart in buses from St. Louis and Kansas City and spend the day discussing health care issues with their legislators and with other community and religious leaders.

**Agenda:**

7:30 am Caravans leave from across the State

Kansas City: Depart from Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 2310 East Linwood Blvd

St. Louis: Depart from Lane Tabernacle CME, 910 N. Newstead

10:30 am Inter-Religious Healthcare Roundtable, Capitol Building, Hearing Room 7 –Basement

10:45 am Capitol Briefing and Legislative Visit Preparation, Capitol Building, Hearing Room 3—  
Basement

12: 00 pm Legislative Visits

1:00 pm Faith Leaders for Families Public Rally, Third Floor Capitol Rotunda –Senate Side

2:30 pm Bus leaves Jefferson City

5:00 pm Caravans Return to home city

**Contact Jerry Jones or Eva Schulte at CCO for more information at [www.cco.org](http://www.cco.org)**

*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*