I am an Internal Medicine physician/resident/student and a member of the Missouri Chapter of the American College of Physicians. We are an organization with nearly 2,500 members across the state. As Internists, we are especially well-trained in the diagnosis of puzzling medical problems, in the ongoing care of complicated illnesses, and in caring for patients with more than one disease. Over the past year many of us worked on the front lines of the COVID pandemic, while others in Internal Medicine quickly adapted to telehealth to allow our patients to receive care while at home.

We recognize this is an important year for physicians to be talking to their Legislators due to the large number of healthcare bills before the Legislature. To keep both of us safe, I am reaching out to you via email/phone/Zoom and asking you to please review the information I am providing.

My first priority issue is regarding the current attempts to remove authority from local health departments in times of health emergencies. It is the actions of these local health departments that prevented Missouri from seeing the higher rates of COVID-19 infections and deaths as was seen in other states such as New York, California and Texas. I have attached a document on this issue and ask that you take a moment to review it.

My second priority issue is that of Medicaid Expansion, which Missourians voted to approve last August with great support. As a physician/future physician, I see first-hand the impact that healthcare coverage has on a patient and their long-term health. Missourians need the expansion to be implemented in order to provide improved access to healthcare for our citizens, healthier workers which increases productivity, to grow our economy, and to prevent additional rural and community hospitals from shutting down. I also have attached a document on this issue and would encourage you to review it.

I would be happy to talk with you about any of these issues and encourage you to reach out to me on these issues and other healthcare issues in the future.

Thank you for your time,

Name
Email
Phone