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## **Committee Votes Down Bill Banning Health Insurance for Lawmakers**

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Committee members voted against SB 151 today that would have prohibited state lawmakers from receiving taxpayer-funded health insurance.

Sen. Tim Green (St. Louis) sponsored the bill in response to Gov. Matt Blunt's proposal to drastically cut Medicaid and to close assisted living centers including the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center in St. Louis.

"It is hypocritical for legislators to continue receiving taxpayer-subsidized health insurance while we cut thousands of people off from the only health insurance they have," Sen. Green said.

The bill was voted on in the Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations Committee as follows:

- **Voting against the bill:**
  - John Loudon, Republican - Ballwin
  - John Cauthorn, Republican - Mexico
  - Dan Clemens, Republican - Marshfield
  - David Klindt Republican - Bethany
  - Delbert Scott, Republican – Lowry City
- **Voting for the bill:**
  - Carl Vogel, Republican – Jefferson City
  - Victor Callahan, Democrat-Independence
  - Rita Days, Democrat-Bel Noir
  - Tim Green, Democrat – St. Louis

Sen. Green's bill would prohibit state senators and representatives from receiving any state health insurance, which would save the state \$825,000 during the first year.

Sen Green said he sponsored the legislation, because Missouri's legislature is a "citizen legislature" which means most lawmakers hold outside jobs that already offer private health insurance.

"If we are so short of money in this state that we are willing to cut 122,000 Missourians from our Medicaid program, then it is not right for lawmakers to take advantage of the same sort of assistance."

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