

***SENATOR HARRY KENNEDY***  
***MISSOURI STATE SENATE — 1<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT***

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HARRY\_KENNEDY@SENATE.MO.GOV

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 226

PHONE: (573) 751-2126

FAX: (573) 522-2465

**Kennedy Files Bill to Create Small-Business Insurance Pools**

*Purchase alliances could lead to accessible, affordable health care for workers*

JEFFERSON CITY—State Sen. Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, today introduced legislation to address skyrocketing insurance rates for small businesses. Currently, small businesses often pay higher premiums because they are buying insurance for a small group of people, meaning a greater risk for the insurer. Purchasing insurance for a larger group would decrease the risk and result in lower premiums.

“Small-business health insurance rates are going up in double digits each year,” Kennedy said. “This bill is a common-sense solution that will allow them to pool resources and buy insurance in a larger group at a cheaper rate.”

Kennedy’s bill, Senate Bill 950, would create health care purchasing alliances that could negotiate reduced premium rates for member employers. Each alliance would be governed by a board of directors and would not be able to select members based on favorable health status.

“My goal is to provide accessible, affordable health care for every Missourian,” Kennedy said. “Ideally, businesses would form a small number of large alliances to really drive costs down.”

The bill would also require insurance carriers to offer options to employers that meet the standards set by the state.

“We want to ensure that people receive quality health care at an affordable price,” Kennedy said. “In order to do that, we have to provide choices and guarantees that the plans will cover the needs of those insured.”

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