



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Missouri Rx Provides Drug Assistance for Missouri Seniors

One issue has been on the minds of Americans for the last decade that has yet to be fully fixed — rising health-care costs. However, Missouri has responded with the Missouri Rx Plan (MoRx) to provide assistance for those who need help paying for their pharmaceutical needs. I am working alongside Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder as vice chair of the Missouri Senior Rx Commission to ensure that Missourians do not have to choose between prescription drugs and other necessities.

The federal government's prescription drug plan, Medicare Part D, provides assistance for drug costs; however, it has a benefit gap for most enrollees. The gap, or "doughnut hole," begins after drug costs reach \$2,250 and ends when costs exceed \$5,100 in a year. MoRx helps to bridge that gap by providing assistance to seniors and disabled citizens in need.

This is a good program that may not be as widely known to taxpayers as it should be. As the vice chairman of this commission, I want to work to ensure my constituents know it is available.

MoRx pays for 50 percent of out-of-pocket costs that are not currently paid by the Medicare Part D program, excluding the monthly premium, and 50 percent of seniors' deductibles. Further, the program pays 50 percent of the Medicare Part D coverage gap, 50 percent of the co-pay before the gap in coverage and 50 percent of co-pays in catastrophic coverage.

In addition to these benefits, eligibility and membership requirements are easy to understand. MoRx is open to Missourians enrolled in Medicare Part D who are over 65 with an annual income of \$19,600 or less for individuals or \$26,400 or less for married couples. MoRx works with all Medicare Part D plans, and there are no application deadlines or fees of any kind. Once enrolled, there is no need to re-apply.

Compared with other states' pharmacy-assistance programs, MoRx is among the most generous and easy to understand. The program is already providing assistance for more than 160,000 Missourians, and I encourage everyone who qualifies to apply. A simple one-page application is all that is required, and benefits for new enrollees should begin the month following application approval.

To apply or learn more about MoRx, call toll free (800) 375-1406 or visit www.morx.mo.gov.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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