



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Chris Koster Introduces Bill Improving Health Care for Missourians

Bill Included as a Priority in Governor Blunt's Agenda

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Chris Koster, R-Harrisonville, today filed a bill helping modernize Missouri's Health-Care Delivery System.

Senate Bill 868 establishes the Health-Care Technology Fund. Money from the fund will be used to streamline and reduce the costs of state-funded health-care services and improve computer hardware and software. An emergency clause on the bill would allow it to go into effect July 1 with the start of Fiscal Year 2007.

"Missouri's health-care system is out-of-date with the 21st century and out-of-sync with the needs of this state," Koster said. "This measure will increase the efficiency and responsiveness of the Medicaid system and ensure that Missouri's most vulnerable citizens have access to quality health care."

Promoting a restructured and technologically advanced Medicaid program was one of the priorities Gov. Matt Blunt highlighted on Wednesday night in his State of the State address.

"Sen. Koster and I understand that we must change the way we manage our health-care programs," Blunt said. "I am pleased to join with him in supporting this good piece of legislation that will utilize emerging technologies to enhance the delivery of health-care services."

To keep Medicaid in step with technology developments, Koster said the fund can be used for such improvements as replacing paper records with electronic ones and exploring the potentials of telemedicine.

"I look forward to working with Gov. Blunt as this legislation progresses," Koster said. "Missourians should receive medical care that reflects the technological capabilities of this day and age."