



State Senator Harry Kennedy

Room 226 - State Capitol - Jefferson City, MO - Phone 573 - 751 - 2126

PRESS RELEASE



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January 10, 2008

Sen. Kennedy Appointed to Joint Committee on MO HealthNet

Committee to Oversee New Healthcare Program

JEFFERSON CITY— State Senator Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, has been named to the Joint Committee on MO HealthNet. Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood recently appointed Sen. Kennedy to this bipartisan, bicameral committee to oversee the new state healthcare program adopted by the General Assembly last year.

The Joint Committee on MO HealthNet will study the resources needed to continue improvements to the Mo HealthNet program, which replaces the state Medicaid system. The committee was established in Senate Bill 577, approved by the General Assembly in 2007, as part of a wide-ranging effort to improve the delivery of healthcare services to the citizens of Missouri.

“There are a lot of good things included in SB 577 to meet the healthcare needs of Missourians who struggle to maintain healthy lives,” Sen. Kennedy said. “I want to make sure the state continues to provide the resources necessary to improve and expand MO HealthNet so that all citizens can receive quality healthcare. There are still too many Missourians who must choose between putting food on the table or getting the healthcare they need.”

Sen. Kennedy helped 90,000 women get better healthcare by extending coverage for women earning up to \$18,889. Under his provisions inserted in the MO HealthNet bill (SB 577), cancer screening procedures such as pelvic exams and PAP tests also would be covered.

“MO HealthNet is a start in addressing some of the problems in our healthcare system, but we can’t rest on our laurels and say we’ve fixed those problems by passing SB 577,” Sen. Kennedy said. “We’ll have to continue to make changes to the system to ensure that all Missourians have access to quality healthcare services. I’m glad I’ll be in a position to recommend some of those needed improvements as a member of the Joint Committee on MO HealthNet.”

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