



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Rob Mayer Clarifies In-home Healthcare Services Unaffected by Lack of Funding for New Quality Homecare Council

JEFFERSON CITY —State Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, wants to reassure area citizens who have made calls to his office in recent days that state-supported in-home healthcare services are not expected to be affected by the General Assembly's recent decision not to fund the Missouri Quality Homecare Council in the FY 2010 state budget.

The council, which is the result of a ballot measure approved by voters last November, was created to allow for the unionization of home health workers. The General Assembly did not recommend funding the new council due to state budget constraints.

"This budget decision will not affect the quality or level of care individuals currently receive in their homes," Sen. Mayer said.

Senator Mayer, who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said proposed funding remains at current levels or higher for state-supported in-home providers and services. He says the Medicaid portion of in-home services, which reimburses providers for staff that provide the in-home care, has a proposed total budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$481 million — an increase of approximately \$50 million over the current FY 2009 budget.

In addition, the division of Senior and Disability Services, which performs assessments to determine the appropriate level of care for elderly and disabled individuals, has a total budget of approximately \$19 million in the state's proposed budget, which is similar to last year's funding.

"In-home health care services are vitally important for many of our citizens, and I want to reassure everyone that the important work of these professional providers will continue even though there is no funding awarded for the new council at this time," Sen. Mayer said.

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