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Senator Schaefer Applauds Keeping Tobacco Cessation Program

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senator Kurt Schaefer is grateful that Gov. Nixon has kept funding for a new pilot program that helps Medicaid participants quit tobacco use.

The \$8.3 million pilot program is available for Missouri residents currently on Medicaid and provides comprehensive tobacco cessation medications and counseling. Senator Schaefer had included the language in this year’s MO HealthNet funding, and the governor spared the program from the state budget reductions announced today in his office.

“I want to thank Gov. Nixon for keeping this important program, because the bottom line is that tobacco cessation improves a person’s health dramatically – so much that this will eventually save Missouri taxpayers money,” said Sen. Schaefer. “I now urge the Health Department to implement the program to all those in need, as soon as possible, in order to maximize our savings. This program was widely endorsed by the numerous health care professionals that are in my district, because they know the positive difference it will make, not only for tobacco-related health expenditures but in the lives of their patients.”

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