

PRESS RELEASE



State Representative Rachel Storch District 64



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Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806

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Representative Storch speaks out against SB 539

Bill filed will work toward the detriment of Missouri's most vulnerable citizens

JEFFERSON CITY – Representative Rachel Storch (D-St. Louis) announced today that she has

Instead of expanding access to healthcare for the 600,000 Missourians who have no health insurance, Senate Bill 539 would cause more than 50,000 Missourians to lose their health insurance coverage. When joined together with out Governor's proposed budget cuts, more than 112,000 Missourians would lose their health insurance—Missourians who are elderly, disabled and more than 20,000 children who have nowhere else to turn.

SB 539 would also result in cost shifting throughout the system, placing new burdens on providers, employers, and individual Missourians. In 2001, the Division of Medical Services estimates that the cost of providing health care to the uninsured in Missouri was \$305 million.

Economists at St. Louis University have stated that the Governor's proposed cuts would cause Missouri to lose more than 10,000 jobs and \$757 million in economic activity.

Instead of caring for children, who are the future of our state, this bill would jeopardize and end healthcare coverage for more than 20,000 children.

SB 539 would have a chilling effect on adoption in Missouri. Adoption advocates believe the current wording of Senate Bill 539 will end the entire adoption subsidy program for children living in adoptive families above 200% FPL. Furthermore, cuts of adoption assistance are projected to cost the state \$14.1 million in FY 06 because fewer children will be adopted and some will return to foster care.

As legislators, we have an obligation to lead—we made campaign promises to fight for more healthcare, to fight for lower cost healthcare, to protect children, to protect the elderly, to protect the sick, to expand jobs and strengthen our economy. SB 569 will turn those promises into lies. The people of this state deserve leadership to the top—not the bottom.

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