



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSOURI VETERANS JOIN FIGHT TO REFORM & EXPAND MEDICAID

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Today, Missouri veterans joined the fight to reform and expand Medicaid to help the thousands of Missouri's heroes and their families without access to health care. Dewey Riehn, head of the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO), joined former U.S. Senator and Missouri Governor Kit Bond and State Senator Ryan Silvey to announce support for the reform and expansion of Medicaid.

Dewey Riehn, MAVO Chief, said "the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations is pleased to join former Governor Bond to bring Medicaid coverage to the thousands of Missouri veterans and their families lacking access to health care. Improving the lives of those who have served and their families who have sacrificed so much on our behalf is an effort all Missourians should endorse."

"The very least we can do for our veterans and their families who made tremendous sacrifices for our freedom is to ensure they have access to quality health care," said Kit Bond. "With the elections behind us I hope legislators in Jefferson City will put people over politics, particularly when it comes to our nation's heroes, and work to reform and expand Medicaid."

Currently, more than 50,000 Missouri veterans and their families lack access to health care. Nearly half of these uninsured veterans find that they make too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to qualify to buy health insurance through the marketplace. Expansion of Medicaid would cover those 25,000 veterans and their families.

"Unfortunately, fifty thousand Missouri veterans and their family members don't have access to health insurance. Many fall in the coverage gap – earning too little to buy private insurance and too much to qualify for Medicaid. Medicaid reform could help veterans and their family members in this gap gain health insurance coverage. It is a shame that so many veterans live at or below the federal poverty level and that legislative inaction on Medicaid in Missouri has restricted health care coverage for these men and women and their families. Taking care of our state's veterans means we must engage on Medicaid reform in 2015," said State Senator Ryan Silvey.

Senator Ryan Silvey has developed a conservative solution to reform and expand Medicaid. Silvey's plan will cover the thousands of Missouri veterans and their families that fall in the "donut hole," which means they earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to purchase insurance on the exchange. Silvey's plan would quit penalizing these hardworking veterans and their families and instead reward and encourage work.

Silvey's plan puts in place a number of reforms to transform Medicaid while strengthening our healthcare safety net for Missouri's veterans and working families while protecting the State's budget. His plan is one of the most conservative plans in the nation.

MAVO is composed of federally chartered Veterans Organizations. MAVO is an organization that brings together the common interests and concerns of the many organizations to speak with one voice on issues that impact their fellow Veterans. While MAVO is an independent organization, they work closely with the Missouri Veterans Commission. Current Active and Inactive members of MAVO include:

Jewish War Veterans of the United States of
America

101st Airborne Division Association

Air Force Association

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Ex-Prisoner Of War Association

American Veterans (AMVETS)

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Fleet Reserve Association

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Korean War Veterans Association

Marine Corps League

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

National Association of Atomic Veterans

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

Special Forces Association

St. Louis Service Women's Post 404 (Am. Leg)

The American Legion

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Women's Army Corps Veterans Association

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