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## **Health Advocates Call on Gov. Nixon, DSS Director To Halt Implementation of Managed Care Statewide**

(JEFFERSON CITY, MO).....Today a diverse group of advocates for health sent a letter to Gov. Jay Nixon and Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Brian Kinkade requesting that they halt the process currently in motion that would implement managed care statewide. The organizations took the step after evaluating whether such a massive change would be good for health outcomes in Missouri and whether authorization of the expansion had been carried out in compliance with state statute.

“We are concerned that moving to statewide managed care will hurt Missourians,” said Jen Bersdale, executive director of Missouri Health Care for All, one of the signers of the letter of request to Gov. Nixon and Mr. Kinkade. “The state has reported that managed care does not save money and leads to worse health outcomes. For these reasons, our state’s Medicaid Oversight Committee has voted twice against statewide managed care. Our state should not expand a program that doesn’t work for consumers.”

“The citizens of our state should have had the opportunity to testify in public hearings regarding such a massive policy change,” said Jeanette Mott Oxford, executive director of Empower Missouri. “Instead the appropriations process in 2015 was used to move a Request for Proposal forward in Spring, 2016, an action very irregular in Missouri legislative process. After careful consideration, we are convinced our General Assembly and the executive branch have not followed their own rules as established in statute and legal precedent.”

Research conducted by DSS reports that MO HealthNet’s fee-for-service program provides patients with better health care than managed care, with fee-for-service scoring better on 10 out of 18 quality measures they examined. The research also concludes that fee-for-service MO HealthNet provides patients with better access to outpatient services than does managed care.

Organizations signing on to the letter to Gov. Nixon and Mr. Kinkade include: Communities Creating Opportunity, Empower Missouri, Metropolitan Congregations United, Missouri Faith Voices, Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance, Missouri Health Care for All, Missouri Jobs with Justice, Missouri Rural Crisis Center, MO/KS SEIU State Council, NAMI Missouri, NAMI St. Louis, Paraquad, and SEIU Local 1.

The full letter to Gov. Nixon and Mr. Kinkade may be read here: <http://bit.ly/29Dw0GM>

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