

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cape Girardeau Forum Offers Insights Into Medicaid Reform Debate Taking Place in State Capital

(CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO) In spite of endorsements from political power houses such as the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri is currently one of 24 states that have not chosen to expand income eligibility for Medicaid. What are the budget implications for Missouri? The health implications? Why do more than 300 diverse organizations representing businesses, communities of faith, health care providers, consumers, unions, and civic organizations support Medicaid expansion?

That's the topic for a brown bag luncheon to be held on Thursday, March 13, noon-1:30 pm, at the Public Library, 711 N. Clark, Oscar Hirsch Room, in Cape Girardeau. The forum is hosted by the University of Missouri School Of Social Work. Speakers for the forum are Jeanette Mott Oxford, executive director of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare (www.masw.org), and southeast Missouri regional organizer Walt Wildman.

"Missouri is currently losing \$5 million per day in federal dollars that could improve access to healthcare in our state," said Oxford. "And just as importantly, it is projected that Medicaid expansion could prevent loss of life for 700 Missourians in its first year as well as saving or creating 24,000 jobs."

For further information or to receive notice of additional public meetings and training opportunities, contact Wildman at 573-579-8626.

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