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Managed Care Expansion Process Challenged as Illegal; *Advocates Will Ask Governor-Elect Greitens to Halt Implementation*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.....Policy directors from two Missouri health advocacy organizations testified on December 6, 2016 before the Missouri HealthNet Oversight Committee to challenge current plans to expand managed care statewide as illegal and to signal that they will ask Governor-Elect Greitens to halt the expansion.

Sarah Gentry, Policy Director for Missouri Health Care for All, said, "Research conducted by the Department of Social Service (DSS) shows that MO HealthNet's fee-for-service program provides patients with higher quality health care than managed care, scoring better on 10 out of 18 quality measures they examined."

Jeanette Mott Oxford, Executive Director of Empower Missouri, said, "There were no open and transparent public hearings before statewide expansion was initiated. Legislation by appropriation is unconstitutional, so we view the process the state has used as illegal."

Oxford reminded the committee that thirteen organizations had expressed these concerns to Gov. Jay Nixon and DSS Director Brian Kinkade in July, with copies going to the oversight committee at that time. The full text of that letter may be found at: <http://bit.ly/29Dw0GM>.

Oxford and Gentry said the upcoming inauguration of Governor-Elect Eric Greitens and the swearing in of a new General Assembly allows an opportunity for fresh examination of the expansion question. Several organizations will be corresponding with Governor-Elect Greitens about their concerns which include the detrimental impact of managed care on rural communities without adequate provider networks.

Missouri Health Care for All is a statewide grassroots advocacy movement founded by faith and community leaders on the principle that every Missourian deserves access to quality, affordable health care. For more information on Missouri Health Care for All, visit www.MoHealthCareforAll.org.

Founded in 1901 as the Missouri Conference on Charities and Corrections, Empower Missouri (www.EmpowerMissouri.org) advocates for the well-being of all Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research. Their work focuses especially on basic human needs and issues of access and equity.

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