

The Honorable Eric Greitens
Capitol Building
Room 216, P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Gov. Greitens,

I am sure you are aware that your proposed budget does nothing to correct the unthinkable Medicaid cuts of the past several years. Since costs are expected to rise in 2018, anything but an increase in funding means further cuts to Skilled Nursing Medicaid. **Missouri's reimbursement will continue to fall further and further below the amount that the state's own formula stipulates. Your inaction, coupled with rising costs, will put Missouri more than \$25 per patient per day (PPD) below the obligated amount. Missouri's contribution of just \$15.26 to SNF Medicaid from the General Revenue is a disgrace.**

Without full funding, care levels at Missouri facilities may be compromised and some may ultimately be forced to close. I am having trouble understanding why you would choose to penalize the state's most vulnerable citizens, why you would choose to send the message to older adults and their families that they are not valued!

I am also having trouble understanding why you would choose *not* to follow the state's own guidelines for Skilled Nursing Medicaid reimbursement. On some level, you have to know that you're not doing the right thing.

Missouri's neighboring states *are* doing the right thing. They are paying on average \$48.22 PPD from General Revenue to support their skilled nursing residents. This is three times the Missouri contribution and roughly the amount that Missouri *says* it should be paying. It is time for the state to finally meet its obligation!

As one of Missouri's older adults, I have contributed to the state's wealth, have lived by its laws, and have put you in office. I believe I have fulfilled my obligation as a citizen of Missouri.

Now, I ask you to fulfill your obligation **by fully funding Medicaid in 2018**. Please – *finally* – make Missouri's seniors *your* priority.

Respectfully,