

Statement of the Missouri Catholic Bishops on Amendment 2 to Expand Medicaid

We wish to express our support for the current effort to expand the Missouri Medicaid (MO HealthNet) program. MO HealthNet currently provides health coverage to Missouri's most vulnerable citizens, including the elderly, the disabled, pregnant women, and children. It plays a vital role in sustaining the healthcare delivery system in our state. In our Catholic ministries throughout the state, however, we find that there are still many Missouri citizens who lack access to affordable healthcare coverage that is so necessary for human flourishing. We, therefore, support expanding the program to cover low-income workers, since doing so will help lead to better health outcomes for them and enhance their ability to continue working to support themselves and their families.

We recognize that some may not agree with expanding Medicaid by way of a constitutional amendment or in a manner that bypasses the state legislative process. We offer *our* support for this effort because of the unmet healthcare needs of the working poor and to ensure the continued delivery of care to those who need it most through the Missouri healthcare system, including Missouri's Catholic hospitals. We offer this support understanding that current federal law includes pro-life protections in Medicaid through the Hyde Amendment. We encourage Catholics and others of goodwill to give serious consideration to supporting this effort to expand the Missouri Medicaid program.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



Handwritten signature of Robert J. Carlson in black ink.

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
General Chairman
Archbishop of St. Louis



Handwritten signature of James V. Johnston, Jr. in black ink.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Vice Chairman
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



Handwritten signature of W. Shawn McKnight in black ink.

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City



Handwritten signature of Edward M. Rice in black ink.

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved October 16, 2019