The 2023 regular legislative session wrapped up on Friday, May 12th. This year’s session started off on a more cooperative note than it ended last year. However, by the last week of session, infighting among Republican factions in the Senate once again brought business to a halt, which caused many of the party’s priorities to stall. Other than the COVID-shortened 2020 legislative session, 2023 saw the fewest bills sent to the governor in the last 30 years. The most notable casualty of the Senate dysfunction was initiative petition reform, which was one of the main priorities of Republicans coming into the year. Lawmakers also failed to pass tax credits to address the availability and affordability of childcare, which was a priority of Governor Parson. However, the legislature did pass two of its priorities related to transgender youth. The first was a bill prohibiting puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors. After a Democratic filibuster in the Senate, the bill was amended and will expire after four years unless reauthorized by the General Assembly. The legislature also passed a bill requiring student athletes to compete in sports designated for their biological sex. In the first legislative session post-Dobbs, there was a bipartisan push to expand Medicaid eligibility for low-income mothers from 60 days to one year after the birth of their child. In this issue of Good News, you can see how your legislators voted on the minor transgender treatment bill, postpartum Medicaid expansion bill, along with the sex separated sports bill.

Benefits Cliff and Postpartum Care

SB 106, dealing with public health, was amended to include two MCC priorities. The bill also now includes the benefits cliff language that would allow a recipient of government assistance—such as food stamps (SNAP) or temporary assistance for needy families (TANF)—to keep a portion of their benefits in cases where an increase in the recipient’s income would otherwise cause them to lose access to the full amount of their benefits. In some cases, the loss of the full benefits can be greater than the pay increase, creating a disincentive for recipients to better their situations. SB 106 also includes the extension of MO HealthNet postpartum coverage for low-income women.

Adoption Tax Credit

SB 24 was amended to include an expansion of the adoption tax credit. Current law authorizes a nonrefundable tax credit for one-time adoption expenses, not to exceed $10,000 per child, with an annual limit of $6 million in tax credits. The amendment adjusts the maximum per-child credit for inflation, makes the tax credit refundable, removes the $6 million limit, and provides that, for tax years ending on or before December 31, 2023, priority for authorizing tax credits shall be given to applications for special needs children who are residents or wards of residents of this state.
Gender Reassignment Treatment Ban

SB 49 establishes the “Missouri Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act”. Under this act, no health care provider shall perform gender transition surgeries on any minor. Until August 28, 2027, no health care provider shall prescribe or administer cross-sex hormones or puberty-blocking drugs to a minor for a gender transition, unless such minor was receiving such treatment prior to August 28, 2023.

Postpartum Care

SBs 45 & 90 extend MO HealthNet coverage for low-income women from 60 days to one year following the end of the pregnancy to help address Missouri’s high maternal mortality rate and improve health outcomes for mothers and babies.

Sex Separated Sports

SB 39 prohibits a public or private school from allowing any student to compete in an athletic competition that is designated for the student’s opposite biological sex.
### Senate Votes

**Vote 1 – Senate Third Read and Passed to establish the “Missouri Safe Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act”. (SS#2 SCS SBs 49, 236, & 164 Senate Third Read and Passed, 3/23/2023)**

**MCC Position: Support**

**Vote 2 – Senate Third Read and Passed to extend MO HealthNet coverage for low-income women from 60 days to one year following the end of the pregnancy to help address Missouri’s high maternal mortality rate. (CCS HCS SS SCS SBs 45 & 90 Senate Third Read and Passed, 5/5/2023)**

**MCC Position: Support**

**Vote 3 – Senate Third Read and Passed to ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. (SS#2 SB 39 Senate Third Read and Passed, 3/23/2023)**

**MCC Position: Support**

### Find your legislators

- Enter your address at [www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/](http://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/)
- Or call the MCC at (573) 635-7239

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**Read the End of Session Report at mocatholic.org to find out where all MCC tracked bills ended up this session.**

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### Dist. | Legislator 1 | Legislator 2 | Legislator 3
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50 | Rep. Doug Mann (D-Columbia) | N | Y | N
107 | Rep. Mark Matthiesen (R-O’Fallon) | Y | Y | Y
124 | Rep. Craig Mayhew (R-Cook) | Y | Y | Y
7 | Rep. Peggy McGee (R-Cameton) | Y | Y | Y
118 | Rep. Mike McGirr (R-Porto) | Y | Y | Y
20 | Rep. Aaron McMullen (R-Independence) | Y | N | Y
80 | Rep. Peter Meredith (D-St. Louis) | N | Y | N
151 | Rep. Herman Morse (R-Dexter) | Y | N | Y
68 | Rep. Jay Mosley (D-Floressant) | AL | Y | AL
94 | Rep. Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis) | Y | Y | Y
42 | Jeff Myers (R-Warrenton) | Y | Y | Y
67 | Rep. Chantele Nicholson-Clark (D-Floressant) | N | Y | N
15 | Maggie Nuremberg (D-Kansas City) | N | Y | N
95 | Rep. Michael O’Donnell (R-St. Louis) | Y | Y | Y
100 | Rep. Philip Oehlerking (R-Ballon) | Y | Y | Y
131 | Rep. Bill Owen (R-Springfield) | Y | Y | Y
150 | Rep. Cameron Parker (R-Campbell) | Y | Y | Y
30 | Jonathan Patterson (R-Lee’s Summit) | N | Y | Y
40 | Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green) | Y | N | Y
122 | Rep. Tara Peters (R-Rolla) | Y | N | Y
90 | Rep. Barbara Phifer (D-St. Louis) | N | AL | N
47 | Adtian Plank (D-Columbia) | N | Y | N
89 | Rep. Dean Plocher (R-St. Louis) | Y | Y | Y
52 | Brad Politi (R-Sedalia) | Y | AL | N
13 | Rep. Sean Pouche (R-Kansas City) | Y | Y | Y
73 | Raychel Proudie (D-St. Louis) | N | Y | N
132 | Crystal Quade (D-Springfield) | N | Y | N
57 | Rep. Rodgers Reddy (R-Windsor) | Y | Y | Y
112 | Rep. Renee Reuter (R-Kimberly) | Y | Y | N
39 | Doug Richey (R-Excelsior Springs) | N | Y | Y
5 | Louis Riggs (R-N Hannibal) | Y | Y | Y
134 | Alex Riley (R-Springfield) | Y | Y | Y
161 | Lane Roberts (R-Joplin) | Y | Y | Y
33 | Rep. Chris Sanders (R-Lone Jack) | N | N | N
61 | Bruce Sassmann (R-Bland) | Y | Y | Y
21 | Rep. Robert Sauls (D-Independence) | N | Y | N
69 | Rep. Adam Schnell (R-St. Charles) | Y | N | Y
49 | Rep. Jim Schulte (R-New Bloomfield) | N | Y | Y
105 | Rep. Adam Schroder (R-St. Charles) | Y | Y | Y
156 | Brian Seitz (R-Branson) | Y | N | Y
37 | Rep. Mark Sharp (D-Kansas City) | AL | N | Y
4 | Rep. Greg Sharpe (R-Ewing) | Y | Y | N
11 | Brenda Shields (R-Saint Joseph) | Y | Y | Y
163 | Cody Smith (R-Carthage) | Y | N | N
46 | Rep. David Smith (D-Columbia) | N | Y | N
155 | Rep. Travis Smith (R-Dora) | Y | Y | Y
110 | Rep. Justin Sparks (R-Wildwood) | N | Y | Y
31 | Rep. Dan Stacy (R-Blue Springs) | Y | N | Y
45 | Rep. Kathy Steinhoff (D-Columbia) | N | Y | N
128 | Rep. Mike Stephens (R-Bolivar) | Y | Y | Y
133 | Melanie Stinnett (R-Springfield) | Y | Y | Y
34 | Rep. Kemp Stricker (R-Lee’s Summit) | N | Y | N
84 | Rep. Del Taylor (D-St. Louis) | N | Y | N
48 | Rep. Tim Taylor (R-Benton) | Y | Y | Y
66 | Rep. Marlene Terry (D-St. Louis) | N | Y | N
123 | Lisa Thomas (R-Lake Ozark) | Y | N | Y
53 | Rep. Terry Thompson (R-Lexington) | Y | Y | Y
139 | Bob Titus (R-Billings) | Y | N | N
44 | Rep. Chelsea Toalson Reach (R-Huntsville) | Y | N | N
83 | Sarah Unsicker (R-Shrewsbury) | N | Y | N
9 | Dean Van Schoiack (R-Savannah) | Y | Y | Y
59 | Rudy Veit (R-Wardsville) | Y | Y | Y
147 | Rep. John Vois (R-Cape Girardeau) | Y | Y | Y
114 | Rep. Ken Walker (R-Herculaneum) | Y | Y | Y
93 | Rep. Bridget Wade Moore (D-St. Louis) | N | Y | N
24 | Emily Weber (D-Kansas City) | N | Y | N
102 | Richard West (R-Wentzville) | Y | Y | Y
106 | Travis Wilsie (R-St. Charles) | Y | Y | Y
74 | Kevin Windham (D-Hillsdale) | N | Y | N
18 | Rep. Eric Woods (D-Kansas City) | N | Y | N
116 | Dale Wright (R-Farmington) | Y | Y | Y
22 | Rep. Yolandia Young (D-Kansas City) | N | Y | N
78 | vacant |
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