



**State Representative
Mark A. Sharp
District 37**

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, May 22nd, 2023

BAN ON GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE DROPPED

Attorney General Andrew Bailey on May 16 quietly terminated an emergency administrative rule he sought to impose that essentially would have banned gender-affirming medical care in Missouri.

A St. Louis County circuit judge had already temporarily blocked the rule from taking effect and in doing so indicated Bailey's action amounted to unconstitutional legislating by an executive branch official. Circuit Judge Ellen Ribaud blocked Bailey's rule a day before it was slated to take effect on April 27.

Bailey, appointed to the office in January, claimed authority under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act – a consumer protection law traditionally used to crack down on deceptive business practices or the sale of defective products – to regulate medical care for transgender patients.

In her order blocking the rule, Ribaud cast doubt on that claim, saying Bailey’s action “may impermissibly invade a function reserved for the legislature” by attempting to write substantive law under the guise of an administrative rule.

As of May 18, a hearing in the case was still scheduled for July 24. Since Bailey has withdrawn his rule, the judge could dismiss the case as moot. However, the plaintiffs who include medical providers and transgender patients might still push for a final ruling to prevent Bailey from pursuing similar actions in the future.

Hours after news of the rule’s withdrawal became public, Bailey issued a statement asserting the rule is no longer necessary now that the legislature has passed legislation restricting gender-affirming health care for minors. However, while that legislation - Senate Bill 49 - is limited to barring certain types of care only for those under age 18, Bailey’s rule was far more expansive and also would have applied to adults.

Gov. Mike Parson is expected to sign SB 49 into law. He is also expected to sign a companion measure, Senate Bill 39, passed this year to prohibit transgender children, as well as college athletes, from participating on sports teams that don't correspond with their birth gender.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET BILL SIGNED

Gov. Mike Parson on May 15 signed into law a supplemental appropriations bill that authorizes more than \$2 billion in additional state spending for the final months of the 2023 fiscal year which ends June 30.

Lawmakers granted final approval to the measure on May 5.

Major spending items in House Bill 15 include \$425.16 million for the voter-approved expansion of Medicaid eligibility, \$217.94 million for school nutrition programs, \$119.14 million for child care services and \$74.38 million for local charter schools.

The governor has yet to act on the various appropriations bills that make up the \$51.51 billion state operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year. Governor Parson is scheduled to act on those measures before the new fiscal year begins July 1.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION GOES ON BALLOT

The House of Representatives on May 12 voted 97-27, with 31 members voting present to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the statewide ballot that would authorize the legislature to exempt from taxation real and personal property primarily used for child care. The Senate previously approved the measure in March on a 33-0 vote.

Senate Joint Resolution 26 would limit any tax exemptions to property used for child care outside of the child's home.

SJR 26 will automatically go on the November 2024 ballot for voter ratification unless the governor exercises his constitutional prerogative to set an earlier election date.



Several elected officials from both Missouri and Kansas gathered for a picture at GEHA Arrowhead Stadium to celebrate Kansas City being chosen as a host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. During the event it was announced that the Missouri Legislature has appropriated \$50 million to go towards improvements and field updates for the 2026 FIFA World Cup hosted at GEHA Arrowhead Stadium.



4TH ANNUAL

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More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

Am I eligible?

Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross **monthly** household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, **you may qualify**.



1

\$1,481

2

\$2,003

3

\$2,525

4

\$3,048

5

\$3,570

6

\$4,092

How do I apply?

GOOD NEWS!

Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!

Online:

Visit <https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply> to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal

By Phone:

Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994

By Mail or Email:

Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:

Family Support Division
615 E 13th St
Kansas City, MO 64106

Or email to:

FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov

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South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

Red Bridge Area Food Pantry, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Center District Warehouse, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

Serve and Lift Center – South KC, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at
<https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



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**Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or
ideas!**