



NEWS

**From the Office of
Speaker Timothy W.
Jones
110th District**

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**House Speaker Tim Jones Creates Two Interim
Panels
to Discuss Ways to Transform Missouri's System of
Medicaid**

*Working group of citizens and legislators will work with
interim House committee to develop legislative solutions*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Private citizens and members of the Missouri House of Representatives will work together during the

interim to develop policy recommendations to transform Missouri's system of Medicaid.

Thursday morning, House Speaker Tim Jones announced the creation of the Citizens and Legislators Working Group on Medicaid Eligibility and Reform, as well as the House Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation. Jones said the two groups will work together to develop legislative proposals that have the potential to make positive transformative changes to the state's Medicaid system.

“We rejected the president's Medicaid expansion proposal because it represents a massive misuse of taxpayer dollars on a program that provides inferior access to health care and poor health outcomes,” said Jones, R-Eureka. “We believe a better goal is to reform and transform our system of Medicaid so that it serves as a true safety net by providing our most vulnerable citizens with quality care. It is a goal that cannot be accomplished simply by blindly throwing more money at a broken program.”

Jones selected state Rep. Noel Torpey, R-Independence, to chair the Citizens and Legislator's Working Group on Medicaid Eligibility and Reform. He said Torpey will lead the group of representatives and Missouri citizens as they travel around the state collecting testimony and research that will then be used by the House Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation to form policy suggestions.

Jones said a key component of the working group is that its membership will be determined by suggestions provided by the general public.

“The Medicaid discussion has been dominated by political rhetoric and the talking points of career bureaucrats who care only about growing the size of government. If we want to have a genuine,

productive discussion on this issue, we need to engage citizens from all walks of life and all parts of the state in a dialogue that will focus on substantive reforms that will transform our current broken system into one that provides quality care to our neediest citizens,” said Jones, R-Eureka.

He added, “I encourage all Missourians to contact my office with any suggestions they have for members. Whether it is a doctor they know or a community leader who they feel will make a valuable contribution to the Medicaid discussion, I hope they will share their suggestions so we can make this a productive think tank for developing effective solutions.”

Jones encourages any Missourians with membership recommendations to contact his office by email attim.jones@house.mo.gov. He will use the suggestions he receives to help put together a list of members for the committee.

While the working group will play a pivotal role in obtaining the information to thoroughly analyze Missouri’s existing Medicaid system, Jones said the House Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation will do the heavy lifting in regard to translating the data and analysis into effective policy solutions. Jones named state Rep. Jay Barnes, R-Jefferson City, to chair the committee. Torpey will serve as vice chairman.

“Rep. Barnes proved during the legislative session that he is willing to work toward the kind of innovative solutions that will be truly transformational in nature. He knows that any plan that fails to embrace true reform is a monumental waste of taxpayer dollars,” said Jones. “I am confident that he will be able to work with Rep. Torpey and the members of both the working group and the interim committee to develop simple, commonsense steps that can move our state toward a Medicaid system that ably serves Missouri’s most vulnerable citizens.”