



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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is the firmest friend of truth.*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2005

Senate Creates Committee to Investigate Fraud by Medicaid Providers *Sen. Chris Koster Named Chairman*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. – Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, today created the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Medicaid Fraud. The committee will investigate the issue of Medicaid fraud by private contractors within the Medicaid system and the possible over billing of hundreds of millions of dollars at the expense of Missouri’s disabled, elderly and poorest citizens by dishonest Medicaid providers, as reported by the *Kansas City Star*.

“We are committed to protecting our most vulnerable people in Missouri, our seniors, disabled and poor,” Gibbons said. “Stealing money from their care is a disgusting crime, particularly when the theft is by the providers we trust to care for Missourians most in need.”

Gibbons named Sen. Chris Koster, R-Harrisonville; Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau; Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter; Senate Minority Floor Leader Maida Coleman, D-St. Louis; and Sen. Yvonne Wilson, D-Kansas City, to serve on the committee. The committee is charged to investigate thoroughly the extent of fraud within the Medicaid system, forward information to the appropriate prosecuting authorities, and draft legislation to stop these crimes against the people of Missouri and the state’s healthcare system.

Gibbons said he chose Koster to chair the committee because of his experience of having successfully prosecuted claims of Medicaid provider fraud as the former Cass County prosecuting attorney.

“If the *Kansas City Star* is correct, this is the most outrageous act of outright theft within our state’s borders today,” Koster said. “Legislation should be immediately pursued to broaden provider fraud investigations and severely punish wrongdoers.”

The *Kansas City Star* reported on Sunday, Dec. 18, that “corrupt [Medicaid] billings could total \$575 million a year in Missouri.”

The committee is expected to begin hearings as early as the third week in January.

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