**The Senate Minute: Digital Audio File Script on State of the State**

Missouri senators have a better idea of what the executive branch has in mind for Fiscal Year 2017.

The annual State of the State address was held on Wednesday evening.

After the speech, [Senate Appropriations Committee](http://www.senate.mo.gov/aprp/) Chair — Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia — addressed mental health spending, which he says was increased for the current fiscal year…

**Schaefer 1 / Runs :09 / OC: release that money.**

*“For example, the Missouri Legislature put $70 million for new mental health programs in this year’s budget, to start Jan. 1 and go to the last six months of the year. The governor won’t release that money.”*

Senator Jill Schupp of Creve Coeur says she is pleased to hear the governor repeat the need for affordable health care…

**Schupp 2 / Runs :11 / OC: accessible health care.**

*“He is talking about Medicaid expansion, and we’ve been talking about that throughout my tenure in the Legislature. There are 300,000 people who do not have affordable, accessible health care.”*

On Monday, the Appropriations panel plans to hold its first hearing of the year, where members will start to look into the proposals made by the executive branch.

Reporting for the Missouri Senate, I’m Dean Morgan.