

Greetings MO JWW leaders!

Another week down, three full weeks to go in this legislative session. While many priority bills have had recent, or upcoming hearings, our strategy of consistent pressure and connecting individuals with their elected officials is working. Throughout this session, MO JWW & our partners have organized many in-district meetings with legislators and their constituents across the state on these priority bills.

We are also participating in next week's Voting Rights Lobby Day with Missouri Voter Protection Coalition & partners on Tuesday, May 3rd beginning at 10 AM at the Capitol. RSVP & more information at <https://bit.ly/May3Lobby> - see the flyer on MO JWW [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Three weeks - three top issues we're watching:

Unemployment Cuts: [HB 1860](#) has been passed by the House and is making its way through the Senate. This bill has no good intent. These bills would cut Missouri's already stingy unemployment benefits by cutting the number of weeks from 20 to as little as 8. Eight weeks is not enough and will make Missouri the worst state for unemployed workers. HB 1860 mirrors similar language in the Senate that was previously filibustered.

Status: HB 1860 is scheduled for a Tuesday at 8:00 AM hearing in the Senate Small Business and Industry Committee. We continue to push the message that this is not what our leaders should be spending their time on. These attacks could be the focus of the final weeks of the session and are critical must-stop bills for Missouri families.

How to Take Action:

- If you, or your members, are passionate about protecting & expanding Missouri's unemployment benefits or have utilized unemployment benefits during this pandemic, please reach out to me - Crystal@mojwj.org
- Send a message to your senator and share your story - <https://bit.ly/ProtectUI22>

Medicaid Expansion

[HJR 117](#) - a bill to repeal Medicaid Expansion - has been referred to the Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee before it goes to the full Senate for debate. Last week, the US Supreme Court again declared it would not hear cases that impose so-called "work requirements" for those eligible for Medicaid. Senate President Dave Schatz, R-Sullivan, surmised that this ["makes it pretty challenging"](#) to continue sabotaging Medicaid Expansion this session. We remain focused on the full Senate.

Status: HJR 117 has been referred to the Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee, but is not on the calendar for a hearing yet. Medicaid Expansion is currently funded, but the debate over the budget will likely include a discussion on Medicaid.

Take Action: Contact your senator and share your health care story.

<https://bit.ly/ProtectMedicaid22>

Initiative Petition Defense: [HJR 79](#), one of the dozens of anti-democratic bills this session, passed out of the Senate [Local Government and Elections Committee](#) this week on a 4-2 vote. HJR 79 and bills like it only have one goal - to make it harder for voters to propose and pass ballot initiatives that reflect our values. Missouri's initiative petition process has served our state for 115 years and allows us to build a democracy that reflects the will of Missouri voters. The legislature should follow the will of the people, instead of attempting to grab power by limiting our ability to make decisions for ourselves.

Status: HJR 79 continues to make its way through to the Senate, and our focus remains on the Senate. It's the season of change - so we're watching for changes to these anti-democratic bills in the final three weeks.

Take Action:

- **Join the Coalition Lobby Day, on May 3rd: RSVP here:**
<https://bit.ly/2022IPLobbyDay> or <https://bit.ly/May3Lobby> - they all direct you to the MOVPC branded RSVP form that includes organizer contact information, transportation questions, and more.
 - Tuesday, May 3rd beginning at 10 AM at the Capitol. RSVP & more information at <https://bit.ly/May3Lobby> - see the flyer on MO JWJ [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).
- **Email your senator** <https://bit.ly/ProtectDemocracy22>