Internal Communication – Medicaid Expansion  
Rural Hospitals

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, Missourians will vote on Medicaid expansion. Amendment 2 would support our hospital and other rural hospitals. It will decrease the number of uninsured Missourians, which means the hospital can expect reduced amounts of uncompensated care, and it will help low-income members of our community who don’t have coverage and delay care because of the cost, get the care they need.

As COVID-19 has moved through the state, we have seen the health and economic toll it has exacted. Health care is essential, and Medicaid coverage will help hardworking, low-income individuals access the care they need, when they need it — now, and in the future.

When the Affordable Care Act was adopted, cuts to hospital payments were linked to expanded access to coverage. The cuts and coverage were designed to offset one another and help move toward a system where nearly all Americans could access the health care system when they needed it. When the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated the Medicaid expansion component of the ACA, the nation became a patchwork of expansion and nonexpansion states. Health care coverage shouldn’t be about which side of a state line you reside in.

After years of inaction by legislators, hospitals and other stakeholders have worked hard to collect signatures to present the issue to voters. In less than a month, Missourians will decide for themselves whether we should take this important step.

Rural hospitals, and all hospitals and members of the health care system, have a lot at stake. You have a say in the direction the state takes.

Please vote on Aug. 4 and help us say Yes on Amendment 2 for Medicaid expansion.