



Legislative Update

February 13, 2026

The Missouri General Assembly moved into a hectic phase of committee activity this week as lawmakers began aggressive pushes for floor perfection on several priority bills. In the Senate, there were plenty of committee hearings, but debate on the Senate floor has been deliberate and slow. While a few bills have passed the Senate, the Senate continues struggling to gain momentum.

In Brief...

- The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has officially reconvened the Environmental Crimes Task Force after a 25-year hiatus. The task force brings together local, state (Attorney General's office), and federal EPA authorities to prosecute illegal dumping, hazardous waste disposal, and water pollution.
- Attorney General Catherine Hanaway's office filed several lawsuits this week targeting unlicensed video gambling machines often seen in gas stations and veterans' halls. The state argues these unregulated games violate the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act and pose a risk to local communities.

State Budget Update

The [House Budget Committee](#) heard dramatic testimony about the impact of the funding cuts for disability services, specifically targeting the Self-Directed Supports (SDS) program this week. Governor Mike Kehoe's recommended budget for the upcoming fiscal year includes a \$17.5 million cut to SDS, a program that allows individuals with developmental disabilities to manage their own care by hiring and training their own staff. This reduction is part of a broader \$80.7 million proposed cut to disability care programs, which also includes a \$61.7 million slash to day habilitation services. Lawmakers have expressed a desire to scour savings elsewhere to shield these vital programs, but the current proposal reflects a budget calamity where declining state revenues are putting the most vulnerable residents at risk.

Department officials stressed that the need for these cuts is due to many factors but specifically pointed to a reduction in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding. This is the federal government's share of most Medicaid expenditures. The reduction of FMAP will require a larger share of state general revenue to balance out this federal funding reduction.

Hearings of Interest Update

[Missouri House Bill 2557](#) was heard this week in the [House Professional Registration Committee](#). This bill mandates that hospitals with emergency departments must have at least one physician physically present and on duty at all times the department is operational. [Representative George Hruza](#), the bill's sponsor and a practicing physician, introduced the measure to ensure physician-led, team-based care and to address safety concerns, particularly in high-volume settings. Supporters argue that the complexity of emergency medicine requires the specific training of a physician citing that doctors have at least 15,000 hours of training compared to significantly fewer for mid-level providers and that 95% of patients expect a physician to be present during an emergency.

The Missouri Hospital Association testified in opposition, highlighting significant logistical and financial barriers to the bill's implementation. MHA provided data showing a severe physician shortage in rural Missouri: six counties have zero licensed physicians, and 78% of the state's doctors live in just four metropolitan areas (St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia, and Springfield). MHA noted that 26% of Missouri counties lack enough physicians to meet the 24/7 staffing requirement, which typically requires 3.5 full-time equivalent (FTE)



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physicians per hospital. MHA also highlighted that current federal funding for critical access hospitals only covers approximately \$0.10 for every \$1.00 of cost, warning that this mandate could force rural hospitals to close due to unsustainable expenses.

Hearings Next Week

[Senate Emerging Issues and Professional Registration Committee](#)

Tuesday, February 17, 12:30 PM

Senate Lounge – 3rd Floor

[SB 895](#) – allows for temporary licensure for certain occupations and professions from other jurisdictions

[SB 1423](#) – omnibus bill relating to healthcare

[Senate Families, Seniors and Health](#)

Wednesday, February 18, 8:30 AM

SCR 1 – 1st Floor

[SB 841](#) – omnibus bill relating to healthcare

[SB 1086/SB 1275/SB 1489](#) – allows for over the counter purchase of ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine tablets without a prescription

The trend in the Capitol this legislative session is to post hearings much closer to their scheduled date. Previously, hearings for the next week were often posted by Thursday. However, they are now being posted just a few days prior - often on Mondays.

If a hearing of interest is posted and we need testimony, we will let you know as soon as we can.

Family Physician Advocacy Day

We look forward to a great group that includes **you** for Family Physician Advocacy Day February 23 & 24. This two-day event is a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the state, share your story with lawmakers, and collectively advocate for policies that support patients and the practice of family medicine. Monday is dedicated to learning how to advocate, and we will go visit with legislators on Tuesday. The MAFP Team will work to schedule your legislative appointments. Early registration is appreciated to give your MAFP Team time to coordinate appointments. Details including schedule and registration can be found at <https://www.mo-afp.org/advocacy/advocacy-day/>. A full schedule is also included at the end of this report.

Thank you for your continued membership and for the work you do every day for your patients and communities. Your engagement through comments, advocacy, and staying informed strengthens our shared voice.



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MAFP Bill Report

MAFP is currently tracking several bills on behalf of our members, which are included in the priority legislation report.

2026 Dates of Interest

- February 27 - Last Day to file Senate Bills
- March 13 - Last Day to Place Senate Consent Bills on the Senate Calendar
- March 13 - Spring Break Begins
- March 23 - Return from Spring Break: Session Reconvenes
- April 6 - Easter Holiday
- April 15 - Last Day to Place House Consent Bills on the Senate Calendar
- May 8 - Last Day for Floor Action on Appropriation Bills
- May 15 - Last Day of Session
- September 16 – Veto Session

Questions/Feedback

Contact the MAFP office at (573) 635-0830, office@mo-afp.org, or our governmental consultants:

Randy Scherr | (573) 619-7711 | rjscherr@swllc.us.com
Brian Bernskoetter | (573) 619-6040 | brianb@swllc.us.com



FAMILY PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY DAY SCHEDULE

Monday, February 23

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Check-In & Buffet Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome & Legislative Advocacy 101 <i>Sarah Cole, DO, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Commission Co-Chair</i> <i>Peter Koopman, MD, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Co-Chair</i>
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	Advocacy Foundations: Understanding the Missouri Political Landscape <i>RJ Scherr Governmental Consultants</i>
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Patients and Constituents: Service in Action <i>Jon Patterson, MD, Missouri Speaker of the House</i>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Break - Sponsored by CoxHealth
10:45 AM - 11:45 AM	In the Office: Issues Review and Meeting with Lawmakers <i>Sarah Cole, DO, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Commission Co-Chair</i>
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Advocacy Examples: The Legislative Meeting <i>Amanda Shipp, MD</i>
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch and Open Advocacy Forum
1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	Personal Advocacy: Advocating for Your Career, Family, and Community <i>Misty Todd, MD</i>
1:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Advocacy Examples: Everyday Advocacy <i>Amanda Shipp, MD</i>
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Break – Sponsored by CoxHealth
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	AAFP Advocacy Update: What's Happening and How to Get Involved <i>Julie Harrison, AAFP Senior Manager, State Affairs & Member Advocacy</i>
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Workshop: Craft Your Personal Advocacy Plan <i>Peter Koopman, MD, FAAFP, MAFP Advocacy Co-Chair</i>
4:00 PM	Deliver Issues Document to Capitol Dinner on Own in Jefferson City
6:30 PM	Virtual Legislative Briefing for All MAFP Members Live Audience at Courtyard by Marriott

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Check-In & Buffet Breakfast
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	MAFP Board Meeting
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Legislative Meetings in Missouri State Capitol <i>Trolley Supported by SSM Health</i>