

Political Interference with Medical Research

[HB 852](#) - [Rep. Walsh](#) (R-50, Ashland)

This anti-science bill is another example of politicians trying to dictate the work of physicians, academics, and public health experts.

House Bill 852 puts politics above science and medicine.

- Politics shouldn't dictate the work of physicians, academics and public health experts.
- This bill is driven by anti-abortion animus and advances a false narrative about abortion providers. The politicians behind this bill are the same ones who want to ban abortion in Missouri.

Let's be clear: Missouri law already prohibits fetal tissue research.

- This redundant ban is a waste of Missourians' tax dollars and time.

Our lawmakers should be focused on supporting Missouri families through the COVID-19 pandemic. House Bill 852 does nothing to support Missourians.

- Too many Missourians, especially Black, brown, LGBTQ+ and those with low incomes, already face extreme disparities in access to health care. The pandemic is only making this worse, but politicians are not addressing the issue.

In addition to the pandemic, Missouri has a statewide syphilis outbreak and rising rates of maternal mortality — this is the time to *expand* access to care, not play politics with medical research.

- The number of early syphilis cases in Missouri increased 218% between 2012 and 2017.
- Missouri's maternal mortality rate is increasing, and parts of the state have infant mortality rates higher than those in developing countries. A Black woman in Missouri is three to four times more likely than a white woman to die from preventable pregnancy complications.

Instead of spending time dictating the work of physicians, academics, and public health experts, our lawmakers should abide by the will of the people and increase access to health care by expanding Medicaid.

- Voters passed Medicaid Expansion in August of 2020, but the Republican supermajority in the House are refusing to implement the voters' will.
- Implementing — and fully funding — Medicaid Expansion will *actually* improve Missourians' lives and health: 200,000+ Missourians will gain access to affordable health care.