Federal spending bill ensures continuous coverage for Mo. kids in Medicaid, CHIP

By Clara Bates
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Missouri will be required to provide yearlong, continuous coverage for anyone under age 19 enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, as part of a $1.7 trillion spending package approved by Congress Friday.

In a move advocates have long pushed for as a way to avoid unnecessarily forcing children off the rolls, all states will be required to continue public health insurance coverage of state organizations that advocate for child well-being, about the federal bill.

Kids Win has been pushing for state legislation to provide continuous coverage for children for the last several years. A bill introduced last year that included continuous coverage for kids, sponsored by Democratic state Sen. Lauren Arthur of Kansas City, was voted out of committee but did not proceed further.

Hanson said Kids Win planned to prioritize the issue again, but "it’s great that Medicaid enrollment declines, including among children, after they adopted a new renewal process and information system.

Research that year by the Missouri Budget Project, a liberal public policy think tank, found families were often kicked off Medicaid despite being eligible for coverage because of challenges with the renewal process, including not receiving the proper paperwork or submitting the paperwork only for it to be lost or not processed.

Over the course of federal