

December 10, 2020

Chairman Ryan Silvey & Commissioners Missouri Public Service Commission 200 Madison Street, PO Box 360 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

Kids Win Missouri is a coalition with a mission to further child well-being by advancing the health, education, safety and development of Missouri children and their families, especially those who are atrisk because of poverty, abuse, neglect, racial inequities or other risk factors.

We join in the call for a utility disconnection moratorium through March 31, 2021 to ensure that children and their families can continue to access living conditions that ensure children's safety, warmth through the winter months, and connectivity to educational opportunities without interruption during the pandemic when many are in full- or part-time virtual schooling.

Living conditions are a significant social determinant of children's health and well-being, and utility shutoffs could result in more children being at risk for experiencing negative short- and long-term health outcomes, including unnecessary exposure to COVID-19.

A moratorium on disconnections through the winter months would allow continuity of educational and support services for children and families, while limiting their exposure and possible transmission of the coronavirus at a time when cases continue to rise. We believe a moratorium on disconnections will also help to minimize the widening of health and educational disparities as we are hopefully entering the final phases of the pandemic. We appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at <u>CStevenson@kidswinmissouri.org</u> or by phone at 573-397-1274.

Sincerely,

Craig Stevenson Director of Policy & Advocacy

