



Missouri House of Representatives

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State Rep. Tricia Byrnes Adamant: Government Shutdown Won't Harm Missouri Families Seeking RECA Relief

St. Charles County, Mo. – State Representative Tricia Byrnes (R–St. Charles County) said today that while the recent federal government shutdown will likely cause a pause in the processing of claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), families in Missouri should not experience significant hardship.

“Payouts began much quicker than anyone expected, and most families are still in the process of completing their documentation,” Byrnes said. “That means a delay of even 35 days — the length of the longest shutdown in U.S. history — will most likely not impact Missouri families. We are ahead of schedule and Missouri resources are still available.”

The RECA expansion earlier this year now covers residents in St. Charles County and North St. Louis County who were exposed to radioactive waste.

To further support families, a **joint town hall is scheduled for October 14, 2025, from 6–8 p.m.** at the **Spencer Road Library Branch in St. Peters**. Representative Byrnes will serve as MC of a panel of leaders, including:

Mary Dempsey, St. Charles County Recorder of Deeds

Kurt Bahr, St. Charles County Elections Director

Dr. Amanda Moehlenpah, RECA Program Director, Office of Senator Josh Hawley (guest speaker and sole representative of Hawley’s office)

St. Charles City-County Library staff

In addition, Senator Nick Schroer and State Representatives Richard West, Mark Matthiesen, Mike Costlow, and Deanna Self will be in attendance to support constituents. The panel will provide guidance to residents in the newly covered zip codes, answer questions, and share how their offices can assist with documentation to support RECA claims.

“Families who have carried this burden for decades will not see their justice delayed,” Byrnes added.

Rep. Tricia Byrnes, a Republican, represents part of St. Charles County (District 63) in the Missouri House of Representatives. Rep. Byrnes was elected in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Byrnes at 573-751-1460 or by email at Tricia.Byrnes@house.mo.gov.