

Senator Blunt Accomplishments

Health Care:

National Institutes of Health (NIH): During his six-year chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Service, Education and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS), Blunt secured [six consecutive funding increases for NIH](#), bringing the total increase to \$12.85 billion, or 42.7%, under his chairmanship. From 2015- 2020, NIH funding to Missouri institutions increased by \$199.2 million or 42.2%.

- Under Blunt’s chairmanship, Alzheimer’s disease research funding increased nearly fivefold, from \$631 million to \$3.1 billion; and
- Funding for the National Cancer Institute increased by \$1.6 billion or 32%.

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic: Under Blunt’s Labor/HHS chairmanship, funding for health-related opioid programs increased by \$3.7 billion.

Mental Health Care: Blunt worked with U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (Mich.) to get the [Excellence in Mental Health Act](#) signed into law in 2014. The law, which marked the most significant expansion of community mental health and addiction services in decades, created Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) that provide a wide range of services, including 24/7/365 crisis services, immediate screenings, risk assessments, and diagnoses. Missouri has participated in the Excellence program since 2017. In FY2018, Blunt included funding for CCBHCs in the Labor/HHS bill, and in the most recent funding bill, \$250 million in annual funding was included. In addition, through the COVID emergency funding bills passed last year, Blunt secured \$850 million for CCBHCs.

Community Health Centers: Blunt and Stabenow also serve as co-chairs of the Senate Community Health Center Caucus. They have worked together to reauthorize and increase funding for CHCs, most recently securing \$1.68 billion, an increase of \$57.3 million, in the [FY2021 government funding bill](#). The bill also reauthorized funding for CHCs for three years. There are more than 300 sites in Missouri, with Missouri health centers receiving over \$115 million in federal grant funding to serve a total of more than 606,000 patients a year. (full MO list [here](#)).

Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME): As Labor/HHS chairman, Blunt increased funding for CHGME by \$85 million or 32% over the past six years. Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City and St. Louis Children’s Hospital received more than \$13 million last year in combined funding from this program.

Childcare, Education and Workforce Development:

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG): As Labor/HHS chairman, Blunt increased

funding for CCDBG by 142%, or nearly \$3.5 billion to improve the safety and quality of child care programs, including increasing provider payment rates, and expand working families' access to high-quality child care. Missouri receives over \$106 million from the CCDBG annually.

Pell Grants: In May 2017, Blunt [successfully led the effort](#) to restore eligibility for year-round Pell Grants. Approximately 90,000 students receive over \$350 million in Pell Grant funding to attend Missouri colleges and universities. Blunt has also secured annual Pell Grant increases for the last four years.

Apprenticeship Program: As Labor/HHS chairman, Blunt started funding for the Apprenticeship Program in the appropriations bill, with the most recent funding bill including \$185 million.

Career Pathways Initiative: Blunt established [initiatives](#) at the Departments of Labor and Education to expand the full range of post-secondary options, from apprenticeship programs to advanced degrees, that can lead to good, high-paying careers.

Infrastructure and Economic Development:

Strengthening Missouri's Infrastructure: As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Blunt has helped secure funding for major infrastructure projects throughout Missouri. Here are a few examples:

- \$174 million in Capital Investment Grant funding and a \$14.2 million BUILD Grant for the [Kansas City Streetcar Main Street Extension project](#);
- An \$81.2 million INFRA grant to replace the [Rocheport Bridge](#);
- A \$25 million BUILD Grant to replace the [Buck O'Neil Bridge](#) over the Missouri River in Kansas City;
- A \$25 million BUILD Grant to complete a critical stretch of the [I-49 Arkansas-Missouri Connector](#);
- A \$21 million BUILD Grant for the City of Springfield's [Grant Avenue Parkway Project](#); and
- A \$10 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant to replace the [Champ Clark Bridge](#) connecting Louisiana, Missouri with the state of Illinois.

East Locust Creek: As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Blunt has led efforts to secure resources for the [East Locust Creek Reservoir Project](#) to address water shortages in North Central Missouri.

Bannister Redevelopment: Blunt has led efforts to secure federal support for the Bannister Federal Complex Redevelopment Project. Blunt [participated](#) in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the project in October 2020, and visited the site in 2019 and 2018.

Defense and Military Families:

NGA West Headquarters: Blunt worked to ensure that the NGA West facility, and the thousands of jobs it supports, remained in Missouri. In November 2019, Blunt attended the [groundbreaking ceremony](#) for the new NGA West headquarters and has long led efforts to ensure the resources are in place to complete construction of the project.

Missouri Defense Installations: As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Blunt has helped secure funding for critical defense priorities in Missouri. Here are a few examples:

- Fort Leonard Wood: Nearly \$200 million to date for construction of a new hospital at Fort Leonard Wood, which will replace the current General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital. In June 2020, Blunt celebrated the [groundbreaking](#) for the new hospital.
- Whiteman Air Force Base: Billions in research funding for the B-21, a next generation Air Force bomber that is currently under development. In March 2019, the U.S. Air Force [announced](#) that Whiteman Air Force Base will be the second base to receive the B-21 bomber, which will replace the B-2 beginning in the mid-2030's.
- Rosecrans Air National Guard Base: [Funding](#) for C-130 modernization, such as propellers and engines, along with construction funding for a new Communications Facility and a new C-130 Flight Simulator Facility.
- Missouri National Guard: \$32 million for the construction of an aircraft maintenance hangar to support the Army National Guard's Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) in Springfield, Missouri.

HIRE Vets Act: Blunt worked with U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (W.V.) to pass the [HIRE Vets Act](#), which established a tiered recognition program within the Department of Labor to award employers based on their contributions to veteran employment. Seven employers in Missouri received a HIRE Vets Medallion in [2019](#), and seven employers were recognized in [2020](#).

Military Family Stability Act: Blunt worked with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.) to pass the [Military Family Stability Act](#), which was signed into law in 2017. The measure increased flexibility for military families by allowing them to either move early or remain at their current duty station for up to six months when a service member receives a new assignment – at no cost to the Department of Defense.

Additional Missouri Priorities:

Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park: Blunt helped lead efforts in Congress, along with U.S. Representative Jason Smith, to establish the [Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park](#) and designate it as a unit of the National Park System. This is the first National Historical Park to be established in Missouri. Blunt attended the [ceremony](#) celebrating the establishment of the park in November 2020.

Gateway Arch National Park: Blunt [helped secure funding](#) for the Gateway Arch National Park renovation and [advocated](#) for public-private partnerships, like CityArchRiver, as an important part of creating a 21st Century national parks system. Blunt attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated Gateway Arch National Park in [July 2018](#).

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Coin: In December 2020, Blunt and U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver's [Negro Leagues Baseball Centennial Commemorative Coin Act](#) was signed into law. The bipartisan legislation directs the U.S. Treasury to mint a coin to commemorate the Centennial of Negro Leagues Baseball. The National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is in Kansas City.

World War I Valor Medals Review Act: Blunt and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (Md.) introduced the World War I Valor Medals Review Act, which was signed into law in 2019. The law requires the Department of Defense to undertake a review of valor medals awarded to minority veterans during World War I to determine whether any should receive the Medal of Honor. The review will help ensure that minority veterans who served during World War I get the recognition they deserve. In September 2019, Blunt [visited](#) Park University, which is working in partnership with the Valor Medals Review Task Force to conduct the review.

World War I American Veterans Centennial Commemorative Coin: Blunt worked with U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill and Rep. Cleaver to pass the [World War I American Veterans Centennial Commemorative Coin Act](#) in January 2015. Blunt [participated](#) in the ceremonial strike of the 2018 World War I Centennial Silver Dollar honoring the 100th anniversary of American participation in World War I.