

# Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond Chronology & Service in Support of Missouri’s Community Health Centers



1939	Born in St. Louis
1960	Bachelor's Degree from Princeton
1963	Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia, graduating first in his class
1963-1964	Law Clerk to the Honorable Elbert Tuttle, then Chief Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in Atlanta, Georgia
1964-67	Practiced law at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C.
1968	Moved back to Missouri and ran for congress in the 9th congressional district. Lost the election in a very tight race to incumbent Bill Hungate (D)
1968-1970	Assistant Attorney General under Attorney General John Danforth
1970	Elected Missouri Auditor
1972	Missouri Governor (at age 33, the youngest Missouri Governor ever elected) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Republican to have served in 28 years</li> </ul>
1976	Governor Bond was defeated in his re-election bid by Joseph P. Teasdale (D). Following his defeat, Bond returned to practicing law, setting up the Great Plains Legal Foundation, a group which fought agriculture regulations
1980	Re-elected as Governor of Missouri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded the Parents as Teachers program to statewide in Missouri</li> <li>1983 Chair of the Midwestern Governors Association</li> <li>Bond signed a declaration of recognition in support of the group known as the Northern Cherokee, now called the Northern Cherokee Nation of the Old Louisiana Territory attempting to grant a form of State recognition by way of executive order</li> </ul>
1986-2011	Senator, U.S. Senate
2009	MPCA creates the Christopher “Kit” Bond Community Health Scholars Initiative



# Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond

During his tenure in the U.S. Senate, Senator Bond was a strong champion for the Community Health Centers. Funded under Section 330 of the U.S. Public Health Service Act, dedicated funding is provided for the creation of Community Health Centers (CHCs) in areas where large numbers of people do not have access to primary care, oral health, and mental health services.

In 1995, Joe Pierle was hired by Senator Bond in his Washington DC office and soon thereafter was promoted to serve as his Health Policy Advisor. Senator Bond asked Joe to go back and visit health centers throughout Missouri, so Joe could learn how CHCs functioned in underserved areas of Missouri.

Senator Bond led the effort every year to secure increased resources for Community Health Centers, resulting in a \$60 million increase and then a \$100 million increase in the late 90s. These were the most significant increases in funding that CHCs received in decades.

In 1999, Senator Bond, in partnership with the Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA) and the Texas Association of Community Health Centers, reached out to George Bush, then Governor of Texas and a republican presidential candidate, asking if he would make the expansion of the Community Health Center Program a key strategy in his administration, if he were elected president. Senator Bond and MPCA hosted Governor Bush at a Missouri Community Health Center (Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Center) to make the announcement that he would make CHCs a presidential initiative.

In 2000, Senator Bond championed the REACH Initiative to double the number of CHCs in the country. In 2001, he made an important speech on the Senate floor demanding that the REACH initiative be included in the federal budget. Shortly thereafter, President Bush launched his Community Health Center initiative, paving the way for tens of millions of new federal resources being used to create new CHCs throughout Missouri and the nation. Senator Bond also secured millions of dollars to support specific CHC projects in every region of the state, positively impacting urban and rural communities.

The impact for the residents of Missouri was remarkable. In 1999, Missouri had 14 Community Health Centers serving 190,000 people. In 2011, when Senator Bond retired, Missouri had 21 CHCs serving just over 420,000 residents of the great state of Missouri.

Currently, Missouri has 28 Community Health Centers. In 2022, they provided primary care, oral health, mental health, pharmacy, and school-based services to 628,499 people, 35% of whom were children under 18 years old.

During the Fall of 2009, MPCA's Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Christopher S. “Kit” Bond Community Health Scholarship. This scholarship serves as a small token of appreciation for Senator Bond's key role in the development of Health Centers throughout our great state and country and will forever link our successes with his legacy. In 2024 our 8th class of Bond Scholars will be awarded educational financial assistance to go serve in Missouri's underserved communities.

