



# SENATOR NORMA CHAMPION District 30

## 2010 Legislative Session Accomplishments

### Senator Champion's Legislation

#### Protecting Medicare Recipients (Senate Bill 583)

Entitles consumers with long-term insurance policies and Medicare supplement policies to premium refunds as of Jan. 1, 2011, and implements other insurance regulations. Awaits the governor's signature for signing into law.

### Other 2010 Legislative Highlights

#### Protecting Taxpayers with a Balanced Budget

- Protected taxpayers in this tough economy and did not increase taxes.
- Passed a budget for fiscal year 2011 (\$23.3 billion) with nearly half a billion in cuts from the governor's proposed budget more than a week before the constitutional deadline.
- Maintained K-12 education funding at current levels, one of the Legislature's top priorities.
- Voted to reduce higher education funding by the same level recommended by the governor (\$50 million cut) to hold universities to their promise not to raise tuition for the coming school year for in-state, undergraduate students.
- Voted to cut the Senate's own operating budget by 5 percent, or nearly \$500,000.
- Eliminated millions of dollars by cutting more than 1,000 state jobs, equipment and expenses, including training and travel.
- Placed a moratorium on new spending.

### District 30 Appropriations Highlights

*NOTE: Governor could line-item veto appropriations budgets.*

- **Springfield State Office Building (Landers)**  
FY11 appropriation is \$863,617
- **Springfield Regional Center**  
FY11 appropriation is \$1,227,794
- **Juvenile Court Personnel Reimbursement for Greene County**  
FY11 appropriation is \$240,069
- **Springfield Veterans Cemetery**  
FY11 appropriation is \$621,672

### Education Funding

- **Springfield School District**  
FY11 projected foundation formula distribution is \$44,643,582 (FY10 was \$43,188,488)  
*Increase of approximately \$1.5 million.*
- **Ozarks Technical Community College**  
FY11 appropriation is \$10,674,173
- **Missouri State University**  
FY11 appropriation is \$85,389,938
- **State Schools for the Severely Handicapped**  
FY11 appropriation is \$1,381,930

### Rebooting Government

- The state's budget deficit is expected to reach \$1 billion for the 2011 fiscal year, spurring us to reboot state government.
- Began efforts to consolidate state agencies and change or eliminate programs to reduce the size and scope of state government.
- Lawmakers will continue to look at ways to drastically streamline state government to create a sustainable budget situation in future years without a tax increase.
- Missourians can submit their ideas or view the ideas already considered by visiting the Senate's website ([www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov)) and clicking on the Rebooting Government logo.

## Health Care Freedom Act

- Allows Missouri voters to decide in August if they want Missouri to comply with the federal health care law.
- If approved by Missourians, no federal law could force a patient, employer, or health care provider to participate in any government or privately run health care system designed by the state or federal government.
- Protects the rights of Missourians to choose their own health care products and services without fear of facing fines or imprisonment.
- Does not reject any federal health care option or take away an individual's choice to participate in the federal health care plan.
- Protects small businesses from job-killing taxes at a time when they need help the most.
- The Health Care Freedom Act is emulated in 42 other states.

## Autism Insurance for Missouri Families

- Guarantees Missouri families that health carriers will provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.
- Restricts health carriers from refusing to issue or renew coverage based solely on the diagnosis of autism.
- Provides coverage for applied behavior analysis (a common treatment method for autism) at an amount of \$40,000 annually through age 18, and creates a board to establish licensing requirements for behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts.

## Ethics Reform

- Brings a new level of accountability and transparency to Missouri's political environment.
- Improves standards by allowing the Missouri Ethics Commission to investigate violations without an outside complaint being filed.
- Makes it a crime to obstruct an ethics investigation.
- Requires contributions of more than \$500 to incumbent officials and their challengers during session be electronically reported within 48 hours.
- Limits the transferring of contributions among most committees.



*Senator Norma Champion posted regular audio reports throughout the legislative session where she discussed some of the issues debated in the Senate and events at the Capitol. To listen to any of Sen. Champion's audio reports, visit her multimedia website (go to [www.senate.mo.gov/Champion](http://www.senate.mo.gov/Champion), then click on "Multimedia" on the left side of the page).*

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