

State Senator _____ District 7 Jason HOLSMAN

Fall 2015 Newsletter



Dear Constituents,

Serving as your state senator is a great honor, and I'm proud to represent such a diverse district. I have been hard at work supporting legislation that strengthens our schools, protects working families and expands Missourians' access to quality healthcare.

Part of my duty is keeping my constituents informed about what we're doing in the Senate, so here are a few legislative developments from the First Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly, as well as some bills I've filed.

You are more than welcome to contact me and my office at any time, and if you're ever at the State Capitol, feel free to stop by.

Sincerely,

Jason R. Holsman

Jason.Holsman@senate.mo.gov - (573) 751-6607

Educating for Our Future

Each year, education is a major topic for discussion in the state Legislature and, being a former educator, this is a topic I care about deeply.

For the past three sessions, I have served on both the Education Committee and the Joint Committee on Education in the Missouri Senate. This year, **House Bill 42** sought to create avenues for students in unaccredited

school districts to transfer to accredited buildings or out of the failing districts. After exhausting their intra-district options, students would have been eligible for transfer to neighboring school districts or even virtual schools of choice. The underlying legislation made positive steps for many children trapped in failed districts. Unfortunately, the ultra-conservative reformers in the Legislature added provisions that would expand charter schools into highly performing districts. These districts are doing a great job educating children.

Charter schools can serve a valuable purpose, providing options to parents in failing districts. However, expanding them to districts accredited with distinction, which have scored 90 or better on the state's annual performance report, would serve to divert resources away from successful schools.

Hickman Mills C-1	KC Public Schools	Lee's Summit R-VII	Grandview C-4	Center
Total Enrollment: 6,252 Student/Teacher ratio: 17 (18%) of Revenue in Op Funds: Local 38.77 State 46.56 Federal 14.66	Total Enrollment: 14,100 Student/Teacher ratio: 17 (17%) of Revenue in Op Funds: Local 73.32 State 6.18 Federal 20.51	Total Enrollment: 17,615 Student/Teacher ratio: 19 (19%) of Revenue in Op Funds: Local 62.16 State 33.85 Federal 3.99	Total Enrollment: 4,036 Student/Teacher ratio: 18 (18%) of Revenue in Op Funds: Local 58.90 State 29.96 Federal 11.14	Total Enrollment: 2,349 Student/Teacher ratio: 14 (14%) of Revenue in Op Funds: Local 75.76 State 13.50 Federal 10.74

*Above data reported by the Missouri Department of Education as of Aug. 2, 2015 as preliminary data for 2014.

UMKC Free Enterprise Zone

The Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center at the University of Missouri-Kansas City's (UMKC) Volker Campus will soon be able to continue expanding its cutting-edge program through an innovative funding project. This project is a 50/50 match program utilized by the state as a way to advance university priorities while also saving Missouri money. The Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center will be built at 215 Volker Blvd., and will include instructional space, labs and technology to help promote creative technology through business. The Free Enterprise Center at UMKC will provide greater and more diverse opportunities for creativity and collaboration among students, faculty and businesses, and strengthen the Kansas City region's position as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Once 50 percent of the funding necessary for the capital project has been raised from private donors, the state is then able to appropriate a match to the university to complete the building.

During the 2014 budget process, Kansas City leaders worked to secure the 50/50 appropriations match that was approved for UMKC to receive \$7.4 million. Reaching that goal was made possible through private donations.

The state of Missouri will provide \$7.4 million for the project, matching amounts donated by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Robert W. Plaster Foundation. The center will serve UMKC's School of Computing and Engineering and Henry W. Bloch School of Management. The center will provide space for the KC STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Alliance, a program that works with area high school and middle school students. UMKC ENACTUS (formerly Students in Free Enterprise) students will work with K-12 students to learn about producing, marketing technology and manufacturing. The \$14.8 million center will offer an array of resources for area artists, entrepreneurs and businesses, as well as educational offerings for school-aged youth. Programs like the KC STEM Alliance, which reaches more than 13,000 area middle- and high-school students, will be able to use the center to work on projects involving advanced manufacturing, engineering, robotics, science and more.



Medicaid Expansion

The Missouri General Assembly was not able to reach a compromise to pass Medicaid expansion, which could have allowed 200,000 low-income working Missourians access to healthcare.

Senate Bill 125 would have expanded medical care to low-income adults making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level as called for under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The bill never made it out of the committee hearing.

Senate Bill 322 did not get passed by the General Assembly this year either. This legislation would have raised the MO HealthNet asset limit for elderly and disabled persons, allowing more people access to care they need, but often cannot afford on their own.

These measures for Medicaid expansion were once again blocked. However, there was bipartisan support to pass the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA), which reimburses hospitals and nursing homes for care provided to struggling families. Under **Senate Bill 210**, FRA allowed Missouri to receive \$3.617 billion in federal funds.

MO HealthNet/Medicaid Facts:

- Medicaid services were expanded to include adult dental benefits. With the payment mechanism of the tax amnesty period, current MO HealthNet enrollees are likely to see those benefits implemented in December 2015 or January 2016.
- The opportunity to receive 100 percent federal funding for expanded populations ends in 2016.
- The Open Enrollment Period for coverage in 2016 will run Nov. 1, 2015 through Jan. 31, 2016.
- Visit www.covermissouri.org to learn about the Missouri Marketplace.

Right-to-Work



House Bill 116, legislation dubbed Right-to-Work by national conservative special interests, aims to prohibit and punish employers from entering into contractual agreements requiring a worker to become a member of a labor organization as a condition or continuation of employment.

Conservative proponents across the nation have failed to tell the whole truth about Right-to-Work in hopes of misleading legislators.

Here are a few facts about Right-to-Work:

- Because unions are weakened by Right-to-Work laws, wages are lowered and employee safety and health is endangered. Statistics from the U. S. Department of Labor show the rate of workplace fatalities are higher in Right-to-Work states than states without Right-to-Work.
- The average worker in a Right-to-Work state makes \$1,500 less than workers in states without Right-to-Work. Those states without Right-to-Work laws have higher wages, which lead to a healthier tax base and increased state revenue, improving quality of life through education, transportation and social service funding.
- Healthcare: 21 percent more people lack health insurance in Right-to-Work states compared to non-Right-to-Work states. In non-Right-to-Work states, fewer citizens are on government assistance.
- Right-to-Work states have higher poverty and infant mortality rates than non-Right-to-Work states.
- Female union employees have higher wages than non-union female employees.
- Right-to-Work laws hurt minority workers, who benefit most from belonging to a union. Latino union members earn 45 percent more than non-union Latinos. African Americans earn 30 percent more if they are union members.
- Union dues pay for professional training and safety instruction. Workers in Right-to-Work states receive less training, are less productive and perform a lower quality of craftsmanship, leading to higher construction costs.

Right-to-Work legislation was unfortunately passed this session and then vetoed by the governor. During veto session, the House voted 96-63 with 1 absent, 13 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed for an override.

Under House Bill 116, people who are receiving the benefits of union activity in the form of higher wages, increased benefits or better working conditions would be able to avoid paying union fees. Right-to-Work is a national attempt to weaken the bargaining power of workers.



Senate Bill 5: Ending Taxation by Citation



During session, municipal court reform became a priority for many of my colleagues, by specifically putting an end to taxation by citation. Senate Bill 5 is also referred to as the Mack's Creek law because the small town became known for the large amount of traffic tickets that were issued. The proceeds from these tickets helped the community balance its budget.

Senate Bill 5 helps put an end to those practices, not just there, but across our state. The legislation lowers the percentage of revenue cities and counties can collect from minor traffic violations. Local governments that do not comply will face sanctions, including having pending municipal cases reassigned, forfeiting all fines and court costs for distribution to schools and even disincorporation.

This reform legislation places a cap on fines and court costs for minor traffic offenses, requires courts to consider an individual's ability to pay those fines and prohibits sentencing people to jail for failure to pay. Courts will no longer be able to suspend drivers' licenses for failure to appear or for failure to pay a fine for a minor traffic violation.

SENATOR JASON HOLSMAN

201 W Capitol Ave Rm 421
Jefferson City MO 65101

PRESORTED STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Permit No. 220



Senate Bill 244, also called the Senior Savings Protection Act, will help prevent the financial exploitation of Missouri seniors, as well as adults with disabilities.

The legislation was signed into law by the governor in June. It states that if a person associated with a financial broker believes that a requested transaction involving the account of a senior citizen or adult with a disability would result in financial exploitation, the broker may refuse to process the transaction.

The broker then must notify the appropriate account holders or trustees, as well as the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Commissioner of Securities. The new law also authorizes the broker to notify state authorities, a family member or legal guardian, if they suspect there is financial exploitation taking place.



Grandview Municipal Services Building

Oct. 26

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

1200 Main Street, Grandview MO 64030

Center Middle School

Oct. 28

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

326 E. 103 Street, Kansas City MO 64114

University of Missouri – Kansas City

Nov. 2

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

4949 Cherry Street, Kansas City MO 64110

Penn Valley Community College

Nov. 4

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

3201 SW Trafficway, Kansas City MO 64111