

## Senator John Loudon's Adoption Tax Credit Act Earns Committee Hearing

### *Bill Helps Parents Cover Expenses In Adopting Children and Building Families*

JEFFERSON CITY – The Senate Ways and Means Committee this week considered legislation introduced and advanced by Senator John Loudon, R-Ballwin, that would remove a cap on tax credits available to adoptive parents. Committee approval would send Loudon's bill, SB 806, to the Senate floor for debate by the full body. Passage in both legislative chambers puts the parental rights act into place.

Missouri offers Special Needs Adoption Tax Credits of up to \$10,000 to adoptive parents for non-recurring adoption expenses, such as travel to secure a child. The program was instated four years ago and is similar in intent to those now in place in more than a dozen states.

Currently, the total program is capped at \$2 million. Loudon's family-friendly legislation removes the cap, drastically broadening the reach of the program and markedly improving the chances for uniting hopeful children with prospective parents.

"As it is today, Special Needs Adoption Tax Credits have helped provide scores of children with the gift of a mother and father while building Missouri families," Loudon said. "Opening up the program is a sound investment in Missouri's future."

Loudon notes a widely accepted fiscal analysis that pegs the state's added cost in removing the cap at only about \$100,000 after the elimination of a one-time backlog.

"Who among us would rather not invest a little more in a program that transforms orphans into family members?" Loudon said.

➤ Senator Loudon represents Missouri's 7th Senate District.  
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