

State Senator Maida Coleman District 5

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2004

Dear Friends,

The September veto session brought an end to a two-year General Assembly in Jefferson City that saw both struggle and hope for the citizens of our area and all of Missouri. The struggle over budget cuts has turned to real hope for restoring programs to help people who have lost services and opportunities because of money shortages in state government.

This session in the Legislature, we were able to turn back serious efforts to cut programs that provide health insurance for people working in jobs that don't have health plans for workers. We also were able to appropriate more money for schools and stop drastic cut-backs in health programs for the poor.

As you know, our state has faced very difficult financial times. Now, things are better and I remain committed not only to restoring what was lost, but adequately funding programs to help ensure that children have decent health care and good schools, that our senior citizens can get the prescription medication they need and that the basic needs of all citizens are met.

This session, we also stood firm and amended a major transportation bill to stop racial profiling in Missouri. Now, detailed reports must be made on all traffic stops — not just those where tickets were issued by the police.

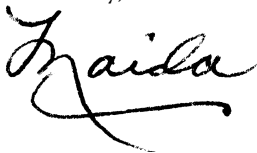
For the past two years, you have given me the privilege of working for you in the Missouri Senate. Last year, I was elected Assistant Democrat Floor Leader, and am now serving as the Floor Leader for the Democrats in the Missouri Senate.

This is an honor and a responsibility that I welcome as a real opportunity to work on behalf of the citizens of the 5th Senatorial District to help bring compassion, understanding and basic common sense to state government.

This year also brings to an end the era of the "Lions of the Senate" who were elected prior to term limits, some of whom have served as long as 42 years in the Legislature. Now, the challenge will fall to a new generation working to ensure that state government is responsive and receptive to the needs of all citizens.

I am in the Capitol to work for you, and to help you deal with challenges and issues you face involving state government here in Missouri. Please feel free to contact me with problems or suggestions on how we can make state government better for all of us.

Sincerely,



Maida Coleman
Senate Minority Floor Leader
5th Senatorial District



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Sen. Coleman Receives Third St. Louis Business Journal Legislative Award For Outstanding Leadership

For the third consecutive year, Sen. Maida Coleman has been honored by the St. Louis Business Journal for exceptional legislative leadership in advancing business interests for her constituents in St. Louis and the state of Missouri.

Elected to the House of Representatives in 2000 and the Senate in 2002, Sen. Coleman is a top legislative advocate for the City of St. Louis.

Her legislative priorities have included foster care reform, nursing home reform, protecting health insurance

for working families and programs to help low income citizens, and working to help protect jobs in Missouri.

She has also worked to strengthen Missouri's election laws, protect crime victims against the loss of property and to ensure integrity of the initiative petition process that allows citizens to place proposals directly on the election ballot for consideration by voters.

Sen. Coleman was elected to serve as Assistant Democrat Floor leader last year, and now serves as Floor Leader of the Democrat members of the Missouri Senate.

Protecting Missouri's Most Vulnerable Citizens

Government must first protect those who cannot protect themselves. That is why this year Sen. Coleman joined with a small determined group in the Senate to stop drastic cuts to the MC+ for Kids health care program. This program was set up by lawmakers to provide health coverage for children of people working at low-wage jobs that don't provide health coverage.

Fortunately, we were able to stop a terrible bill that would have taken away health insurance from about 50,000 children and adults in low-income families. This bill — HB 1011 — would have stopped benefits for families earning more than 50 percent of the poverty level. That's about \$7,630 for a family of three.

A second measure, SB 805, would have eliminated requirements in basic insurance plans to eliminate care

for newborns, immunizations, mammograms, hospital stays after childbirth, annual pap smears and other preventive health care services important to women and children.

Fortunately, these bills were stopped, and budget cuts in appropriations were blocked to save coverage and benefits for all but a few citizens. With our economy getting better, there simply was no need to take benefits away from any deserving citizen.

These victories came on the heels of legislation last year that will make nursing homes safer for residents and provide incentives for more drug makers to participate in the Missouri Senior Rx Program.

SB 556, the Elder Abuse and Nursing Home Reform Act, increases fines for nursing homes that fail to provide safe and proper care for residents. It also creates criminal penalties for administrators who attempt to hide violations from inspectors and it increases protections for workers who report cases of abuse or neglect. This will help ensure that no nursing home employee is fired for doing the right thing and reporting the neglect or abuse of any nursing home resident.

SB 307, passed in 2003, encouraged more generic prescription drug makers to participate in the state's Senior Rx program to help ensure our older citizens receive medication they need for good health.

Since that time, the federal government has established a program for seniors that will take effect in January of 2006. This year, the Senate unanimously passed a measure that would convert the Senior Rx program to fill the gap, called the "doughnut hole" in the federal program.

Despite unanimous passage in the Senate, the House did not take this bill up. When we convene in January, passing this important legislation must be a top priority to ensure that all low-income senior citizens have access to medication they need.



Sen. Coleman preparing for debate.

Personal Reflections

- By Senator Maida Coleman



When I turned 29 my mother told me that life would flash by once I hit 30. So right she was.

I turned 50 this year and I'm still playing catch up on projects I've wanted to complete for a while. I love to read but between all the legislation, reports and data I review daily, leisure reading ends up on the back burner. So, I've taken to listening to books on tape/CD when driving. I just finished "The Da Vinci Code." I'm big into history and mysteries so this was right up my alley.

Kay Gabbert, an executive at the Roberts Brothers Companies, shared with me "Master of the Senate," the Lyndon B. Johnson story. The book was quite insightful and valuable for my job. I've also gained great insight from "A Song of Faith and Hope: The Life of Frankie Muse Freeman." What an amazing life! Attorney Freeman is living history. The civil rights work that she's been involved with has helped shape this nation. We are blessed to have her in our community.

I also have found time for an interesting program for urban children. Early this year I sponsored a deer hunt for five children from St. Louis City. I belong to the Central Missouri Chapter of Safari Club International (SFI), a group of sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts who provide charitable services to the less fortunate and educate the public on hunting and conservation. The hunt was scheduled for what I felt was the coldest three days of the year, but no one had backed out.

Dennis Moore, a SCI member working with the kids, gave this account:

At 6:00 a.m. a luxury bus picked up Brandon, Surron, Quintie, William, and Mia (the only girl, youngest-13, and most adventurous) at Sen. Coleman's office in St. Louis. The bus took us to central Missouri and the kids were fascinated to see wild turkeys and the open rural landscape.

First, the youngsters completed a 10-hour Department of Conservation hunter safety course. Everyone passed the test, with Mia scoring 100 percent. On the second day the kids went to a shooting range where they were taught how to safely handle a rifle. That afternoon the kids went out hunting at Whitetail Dreams in Fulton, Missouri. Four of the five kids harvested (shot) white-tail does that evening. Brandon saw a doe come out into the field, but began to shake when he took aim. He sat down. The same thing happened when a second doe came into range. By the time a third doe walked out Brandon was calm enough to take the shot. At first, he thought he'd caught the flu. But actually, it was "buck fever" that affects many young hunters.

"The big smiles on the kids faces were our reward," Moore said. "I'm not sure who enjoyed the adventure more, the members of the Central Missouri Chapter or the kids themselves."

Later, SCI members delivered the venison to the kids and their families, giving them their first taste of deer meat. Additionally, because Mia had the highest combined score for her written exam and marksmanship skills, her whitetail doe was mounted and now hangs in the living room of her home.

I hope to provide this opportunity again next year for other interested kids. Our chapter of SCI also has a foundation that provides last wishes for terminally ill children – be it elk or moose hunting or fishing. Please visit our website at www.cmfsci.com or contact me at (314) 535-5999 if you have questions.

Lastly, two friends of mine deserve a special shout out. My State Farm Insurance agent, Jeanne Glover, has a wonderful auto anti-theft program underway. Through neighborhood associations, she has been providing clubs for cars for a ridiculously low price, around \$5 or \$10. My car hasn't been stolen SINCE I started using the club! And, Robert Powell of Portfolio Gallery provides the beautiful art work that adorns my St. Louis district office walls. Thanks Robert! Take care all. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

All my best,



The Session in Pictures

“Nothing is Politically Right that is Morally Wrong”



Sen. Coleman stands in the Senate Chamber preparing for a legislative showdown.



Sen. Coleman confers with Sens. Rita Heard Days, Norma Champion, and Joan Bray about upcoming legislation.



Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, second from left, joins Sen. Coleman's daughter, Alaina, left, State Treasurer Nancy Farmer, third from left, and Sen. Coleman, right, in a recent visit to Missouri.



Sen. Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, confers with Sen. Coleman on legislative issues.

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Sen. Maida Coleman receives an award from Mr. Mel Nicholson of Cardinal Glennon Hospital.



Sen. Rita Heard Days, D-St. Louis County, examines pending legislation with Sen. Coleman.



The National Black Caucus of State Legislators/ Women met in St. Louis last summer. Participating in various workshops were (front row, left to right) Sheila Hudson-HNTB, Rep. Betty Thompson, University City, and Sharilyn Franklin-FUSE. (Back row) Mary "One" Johnson, Sen. Maida Coleman, Rep. Amber H. Boykins and Rep. Robin Wright-Jones, both Democrats from St. Louis City.



Although I swim, I'm terrified of water (I almost drowned when I was 11). That's why while vacationing last summer, I decided to fight my fear by swimming with the dolphins. (I left the sharks behind in Jefferson City!)

List of Boards/Commissions/Committees

Committees: Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources, Appropriations, Joint Committee on Corrections, Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement, Financial and Governmental Organization, Veterans' Affairs and Elections, Gubernatorial Appointments, Senate Interim Committee on Regional Control of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

Commissions/Boards: Cultural Trust Board/ Missouri Arts Council, Jobs with Justice, Oversight Review Commission, MERS/Goodwill Industries, Community Alternatives PACT Advisory Board.

Gubernatorial Appointments

During this year's General Assembly, Gov. Holden appointed many citizens from our district to serve on different state boards and commissions. Once appointed by the governor, these citizens are then sponsored by their senator for confirmation by the full Missouri Senate. Sen. Coleman would like to congratulate these citizens on their appointments, and their willingness to serve their fellow citizens as members of different boards and commissions in our state.

2003 Session Appointments

Cheryl Walker - University of Missouri Board of Curators
Angelia Mary Elgin - Fire Safety Advisory Board
Theodore A. Pruess - Seismic Safety Commission

2003 Interim Appointments

John Adams - State Interpreters Committee
Nicola J. Longford - Historical Records Advisory Board
Bradley D. Freeman, MD - Head Injury Advisory Council
Gretchen C. Lockett - Board of Therapeutic Massage
Nancy D. Anderson Tayborn - Minority Business Advisory Commission
Angela H. da Silva - St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners
Richard A. Clemens - Advisory Committee on Lead Poisoning
Doug Randall - Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board
Marianne S. Fournie - Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

2004 Session Appointments

Earl Wilson Jr. - Coordinating Board for Higher Education
Joan Kelly Horn - Life Sciences Research Board
Jo Ann Freeman - Police Commissioner for St. Louis City
James Timothy Eck - State Committee of Interpreters
Norma B. Clayton - Linn State Technical College Board of Regents
Kathy Conley Jones - Missouri Investment Trust
Penny V. Hubbard - Board of Probation and Parole



Appointee Earl Wilson, seated next to Sen. Coleman, is joined by Rep. Rodney Hubbard, Dr. Henry Givens and his granddaughter Dawn Fuller at his confirmation to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.



Penny V. Hubbard, seated with Sen. Coleman, is joined by her many friends, family members and supporters at her confirmation hearing to the Board of Probation and Parole.



James Timothy Eck, seated, is joined by his friend, Edward Wilson, standing left, his parents, Jim and Charlene Eck, and Sen. Coleman at his confirmation hearing as he is appointed to the Missouri State Board of Interpreters.



Sen. Coleman with Nancy Anderson Tayborn, seated, at her confirmation to the Missouri Business Advocacy Commission. Pictured with her are, l to r: Clifton E. Anderson, father; Alexander C. Tayborn, son; Gregory R. Tayborn II, husband; and Jo Ann Web Anderson, mother.



Sen. Coleman with appointee Cheryl Walker, at her confirmation to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Board of Curators. Accompanying her are, l to r: her husband, Thomas Walker, her mother, Paula Smith, Natalie Tackett, Floyd Harris and her son Kamal Walker (seated on the lap of Ms. Walker).



JoAnn Freeman, seated, is joined by her sister Pauline Jefferson and Sen. Coleman at her confirmation hearing as she is appointed Police Commissioner.

Senator Coleman's Legislative Priorities 2003/2004

Helping America Vote

Voting is an essential right for citizens. In 2003, the Legislature passed **HB 511**, which changes the state law to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

This bill creates the Missouri Voter Registration System. It makes the training of election judges mandatory, clarifies the role of election watchers and provides for extra polling places for the elderly or handicapped.

These provisions will help ensure that our state's elections are fair and in compliance with federal guidelines.

Legislature Passes Child Protection Act

Lawmakers last year adopted the "Missouri Alert" system, similar to "Amber Alert" in other states, to help save children who have been abducted. The measure, **SB 30**, would help coordinate police and public efforts with local and statewide media and citizens to rapidly share information regarding abductions to help in concentrated efforts to recover children. Careful guidelines are established to ensure the alert system is used only for legitimate abductions requiring statewide attention. The bill went into effect Aug. 28, 2003.

Reaffirming Our Commitment to Justice and Equality

In 2003, I supported **HB 640**, which designates June 19th of each year as "Emancipation Day." This day is also referred to as "Juneteenth," which commemorates June 19, 1865, the day former slaves in Galveston, Texas, celebrated the ending of slavery. On this day, Missourians, government offices, and all organizations are asked to celebrate "Juneteenth" and reaffirm their commitment to achieving equal justice and opportunity for all Missourians.

2003/2004 Legislation

Working together with citizens and police boards, **SB 348** would have tried to protect Missouri citizens from police misconduct. **SB 348** would have extended powers to civilian review boards that investigate allegations of misconduct by local law enforcement officers.

SB 49 expands the crime of first degree property damage to include knowingly damaging a motor vehicle while breaking into the vehicle for the purpose of stealing therein, or damaging the vehicle during the act of stealing. Such ac-

tions constitute a Class C felony unless it is the second or subsequent such offense, in which case it is a Class B felony.

Another bill, **SB 91**, requires a law enforcement officer, prior to administering a field sobriety test to inform the person why the officer is requesting the person to submit to the test. If the test establishes probable cause for an arrest, the person will be required to submit to an additional test or have his or her license revoked.

To protect our children, **SB 92** would regulate the prevention and screening of lead poisoning in Missouri by defining terms relating to lead poisoning. It would form and establish a statewide program for the prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lead poisoning.

Included in this effort is **SB 454**, which would enable the Department of Health and Senior Services to fine any lead

abatement contractor that fails to notify the department prior to starting a lead abatement project. Licensees or applicants for abatement licensure must provide evidence of their ability to indemnify any person that may suffer damage from lead-based paint activities to which they may be liable.

Another bill, **SB 328**, specifies the legal rights and remedies of mobile home leases and mobile home lots containing five or more mobile homes. The bill addresses the length and renewal of the

lease, the terms and fees of the amount of rent required, and grounds for eviction and termination of a lease.

To protect the people of Missouri, I filed **SB 48**, which would have required security firms providing patrol, watchman, guard, armored car and bodyguard services to be licensed. The licensee must also have completed 30 hours of classroom training, passed a written examination, and completed an approved, 20-hour firearm-training course.

This year I sponsored **SB 1074**, which provides for the licensing of barber apprentices and the certification of barber apprentice supervisors. Prior to being eligible to apply for a barber's license, barber apprentices must work at least 2,000 hours under a licensed barber who is certified by the State Board of Barber Examiners as a barber apprentice supervisor. Applicants for a barber apprentice certificate must be at least 17 years old. Provisions of this measure were included in **SB 1122**, which took effect Aug. 28.



Sen. Coleman and State Rep. Russ Carnahan discuss proposed legislation during this year's regular legislative session.

Neighborhood Assistance Program Awards

The 5th District has been awarded more than \$36 million in neighborhood assistance tax credits for 2004 to facilitate construction, expansion and revitalization of community-based organizations.

"These tax credits are necessary for the health and well-being of many citizens of St. Louis," Sen. Coleman said. "Schools, advocacy groups and services for the under-privileged, even museums will benefit from these monetary awards, improving the general quality of life for many people."

Missouri's Department of Economic Development (DED) administers the NAP tax credits, awarding the money to developing communities and neighborhood projects such as domestic abuse shelters, food pantries and youth centers throughout the state. The credits are determined by a number of factors, including the

demonstration of a need for a particular project, the scope and suitability of the project and the project's estimated benefits.

Among many awards for the district, both the St. Louis Housing Authority Development and the Cloisters at Soulard L.P. were awarded \$1 million; the City Hospital Development received \$6 million; and the U.S. Custom House and Post Office Building was granted \$10 million.

"Project leaders throughout my district have been able to build on what they've already begun in the interest of the public," Coleman said. "Everyone who worked hard to fund these various projects should be very proud. Their efforts and accomplishments will greatly improve the health, safety and quality of life for those they serve."

Senator Coleman's Legislation Briefs

SB 50 – This act requires an election authority to verify referendum petition signatures in 30 days.

SB 606 – This act allows the Department of Natural Resources to convey up to five acres of state land to adjacent land owners to resolve park boundary conflicts.

SB 626 – This bill reinstates lapsed barbers' licenses.

SB 627 – This bill provides for the deferred retirement option plan in the St. Louis City Police Retirement System.

SB 273 – This bill extends the Kansas City transportation tax to December 31, 2005.

SB 300 – This measure creates a system whereby assistant anesthesiologists may be licensed to assist in surgeries.

SB 388 – This act increases the amount eligible borrowers can be guaranteed from the Single Purpose Animal Facilities Loan Guarantee Fund.

SB 427 – This bill revises the securities regulation laws, incorporating many provisions of the Uniform Securities Act.

SB 438 – This bill names a portion of U. S. Highway 60 as the "Korean War Veterans' Memorial Freeway."

SB 513 – This bill removes the deference given to the St. Louis Board of Police when granting paid vacation based on the number of years of service by a member.

SB 697 – This act designates a portion of Interstate 44 as the "George Washington Carver Memorial Highway."

Senator Maida Coleman

Minority Floor Leader

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