

STATE SENATOR

NORMA
CHAMPION

CAPITOL UPDATE 2005



Dear Friends,

Although the 1st Regular Session of the 93rd General Assembly ended on Friday, May 13, the highlight of the session for me occurred on March 17 when Senate Bill 98 was signed into law changing the name of Southwest Missouri State University to **Missouri State University**. The legislation formally becomes law this August 28th and the university is planning a major event for this historic day for SMSU and the city of Springfield.

This session provided an opportunity for me to sponsor several pieces of legislation that passed into law, including bills intended to **reduce meth production**, to **place photographs of sex offenders** on the sheriff's website, and to **remove mercury** from immunizations for children under 3 and pregnant women.


I served as chair of the Senate Committee on Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health, where over 60 bills, which addressed many everyday concerns of Missourians, were assigned. In addition, I served as Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, and as a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

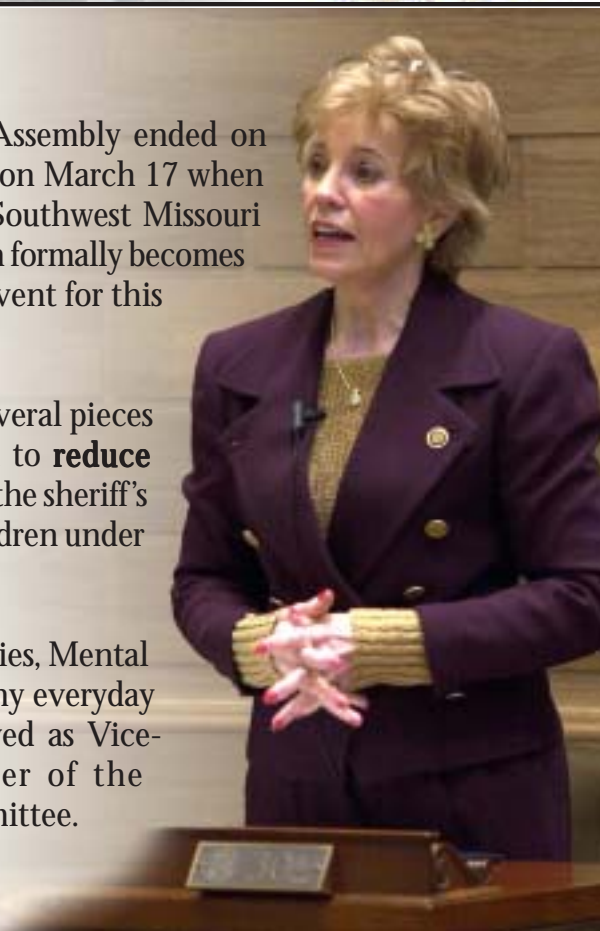
A new school funding formula, workers' compensation, and tort reform were all major issues which were debated this session. This was a difficult year for Missouri's budget. Despite the tough decisions, we **increased funding** for elementary and secondary education, transportation, public safety, and health and senior services. Funding was not cut for higher education and mental health.

Serving Springfield and Greene County is a tremendous honor and a serious responsibility. I endeavor to represent you in a way that is **fiscally responsible and socially sensitive**. I believe we must control the unsustainable expansion of Medicaid so we can afford to care for our neediest citizens.

Many of you were able to visit me during the session, and hundreds more stayed in touch by mail or phone. **I appreciate your involvement in your state government.** We may not always agree on every issue, but please be assured that my overriding guideline is what is in the best interest of Springfieldians.

Sincerely,


Norma Champion



Missouri State University Becomes a Reality!

On Monday, February 14, most of you were probably spending time with your loved one on Valentine's Day. But in the Missouri Senate we were embarking on



The Senator grants an early morning interview after the historic all-night filibuster of her SMSU/MSU name change bill.

one of the longest, continuous debates in Missouri history. The evening began with a presentation of Senate Bill 98 which contained language changing the names of four Missouri institutions of higher learning. However, the focus was on

SMSU's name change to Missouri State University.

In presenting the merits of the legislation, I shared SMSU's history, growth, enrollment, programs, public affairs mission, and other important facts. Hour after hour opponents fought the efforts of the governor, me, and Senate leadership.

As the hours gave way to February 15th, I realized that we were part of an historic all-night fili-

buster. During the morning hours of the debate, I met with others in the side galleries trying to find language to end the filibuster. Finally, sometime after 6:00 a.m., I was able to close on the bill and an overwhelming vote of 23-7 allowed SB 98 to move to the House.

On February 22, I presented the bill to the House Committee on Higher Education and was pleased with

a 10-1 vote indicating support was growing for the name change.

On February 28, Rep. B.J. Marsh and House members from Springfield led an organized and effective effort for the name change. Excitement mounted as the House passed SB 98 with a 120-35 vote. Since no

changes were made, the bill went directly to Governor Blunt's desk for his signature.

On SMSU's centennial birthday, March 17, 2005, Governor Blunt signed SB 98 into law before a large crowd of very happy students and supporters. A great day of celebration was held on the campus. Now, we all eagerly await August 28th when the name change formally takes effect.



Senator Champion and university President Dr. John Keiser with Governor Matt Blunt on the school's 100th anniversary.

I believe the name change will attract out of state students, increase credibility, and enhance employment opportunities for MSU graduates. Economic benefits for Springfield and the entire region are also expected.

Special thanks to Governor Blunt and his staff, Senate and House leadership, my colleagues in the Senate and House, Dr. John Keiser, Dr. Jim Baker, Paul Kincaid, Tom Strong and many others who worked diligently to support our efforts.

As Missouri State University, we are positioned for even greater success, and I look forward to finding new opportunities for strengthening all of our area's educational institutions.



Governor Blunt and Dr. Keiser congratulate Senator Champion on her efforts to make SMSU Missouri State University.



Senator Champion and Dr. Keiser look on as Governor Blunt signs the name-change bill into law.

Legislation Passed by Senator Champion



Senator Champion reviews legislation on the floor of the Missouri Senate.

SB 10 & 27 Meth Prevention

Blended with SB 10 by Sen. Cauthorn, this legislation limits the amount of products containing pseudo ephedrine which can be purchased, as well as the method in which they are sold. This legislation was patterned after Oklahoma legislation which resulted in a significant decrease

in meth labs. With this ongoing menace plaguing our citizens and placing an expensive burden on state and local government, it is my hope that this bill will begin to make an inroad into this devastating problem.

SB 73 Sex Offender Photographs

This legislation allows county sheriffs to place photographs of registered sex offenders on the registry located on the sheriff's website. With the recent disturbing deaths of children by sex offenders, this legislation is not only needed, but timely.

SB 74 & 49 Mercury-Free Immunizations

Immunizations for children under the age of three and pregnant women must not contain mercury under provisions of this legislation. Several other health-related issues were also added to the bill, including newborn screenings, assistance for the disabled, and greater efficiencies in receiving birth and death certificates.

SB 98 SMS Name Change

In addition to our long-awaited name change for SMS, SB 98 included provisions changing the names of Missouri Western College to University, Harris-Stowe College to University, and dropping "Joplin" from Southern Missouri State University.

SB 100 Audiology

SMSU (soon to be MSU) and Washington University are the only Missouri universities to offer a doctorate in audiology. This bill brings our statutes in alignment with national accreditation standards for this profession.

SB 216 Depositions by Criminologists

Over 600 work days were lost by state criminologists last year due to legal proceedings. While attendance at court proceedings is necessary, this bill requires depositions to be conducted in the county where the criminologist is employed. With the significant backlog in our crime labs, this will minimize the number of hours lost.



Senator Champion discusses legislation with Senator Matt Bartle.

Senator Champion's Committee Assignments

Aging, Families, Mental & Public Health, Chair

Education, Vice-Chair

Ways and Means • Appropriations

Key Legislation from the 2005 Session

Foundation Formula

Legislation rewriting Missouri's education funding formula is ready to be sent to the governor. Senate Bill 287 works to create a more equitable system for distributing education funds and move the current program from one driven by tax rates to a system based on differing needs of districts. The new "foundation formula" applies a minimum per-pupil dollar figure for the state and adjusts the figure according to varying property values and costs of living for each school district.

Workers' Compensation

Governor Blunt signed legislation (SB 1) reforming Missouri's workers' compensation system. The current system is not only twice the cost of similar coverage of nearly all the states around us, but it does not serve the injured worker well either. Many workers have fought the system for a number of years before receiving their proper compensation for permanent or partial permanent disabilities received on the job.

The current system has strayed too far from its original intent – to provide coverage both in lost wages and health care for a worker injured on the job. Off-job injuries, aging problems, and abuse of alcohol and drugs have contaminated a system with

a good purpose. The rising cost of workers' compensation coverage is driving employers from the state or keeping them from moving to Missouri.

Tort Reform

One of the first bills signed by Governor Blunt this session addresses medical malpractice premiums, which have skyrocketed in the past four years in Missouri. Missouri has been known nationwide as a friendly place to bring lawsuits to St. Louis or Kansas City to get high jury awards. HB393 places limits on personal injury lawsuits. The legislation restores caps on high jury awards, restricts liability when multiple defendants are held responsible for awards, and eliminates venue shopping.



Senator Champion confers with Senator Delbert Scott, the Majority Caucus Secretary.



Senator Champion visits with Senator Chuck Graham.

Medicaid Reform

One of the most difficult issues we grappled with this session has been Medicaid reform. Missouri's Medicaid program has been growing at a rate of 50,000 new people a year, costing an additional \$250 million a year. Changing an entitlement program is not easy, but it is absolutely necessary. SB 539, signed by Governor Blunt, starts the reform process by making many of the guaranteed benefits subject to appropriations.

The 2005 Legislative Session in Pictures



Senator Champion presents Connie Claybough with a Senate resolution in honor of her achievement of National Board Certification. Connie is a First Grade Supervisor at Greenwood Laboratory School.



Senator Champion presents a Senate resolution to Mr. Jacques Sachs honoring him for 53 years of leadership and service for the TelComm Credit Union.



Senator Champion presents a Senate resolution to Mr. Tim Brown, the principal of Campbell Elementary School in Springfield, who was recently chosen as the 2005 Missouri National Distinguished Principal of the Year.



Senator Champion meets with future Missouri Leaders - the Joanne Breckenridge Scholars.



Campbell Elementary students visit the Capitol to show honor for their principal Mr. Tim Brown.



Students from Mark Twain Elementary School in Springfield visit the Capitol.



Senator Champion is one of six women Senators in the 93rd General Assembly.

Senator Champion's Gubernatorial Appointees

Each year, citizens from throughout Missouri are appointed by the governor to serve on state boards, commissions and councils. Senator Champion sponsored nine gubernatorial appointees and two re-appointees from the 30th District during this year's session. Appointments must receive the advice and consent of the Senate. The committee and the full Senate approved all of Senator Champion's appointees and re-appointees.



Homer R. Thompson – member of the Missouri State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.



Robert C. Fulp – member of the Missouri Housing Development Commission.



Donald D. Landon – member of the Seismic Safety Commission.



John M. Carnahan, III – member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators.



Carol S. Pinegar – member of the Southwest Missouri State University Board of Governors.



Gordon A. Elliot – member of the Southwest Missouri State University Board of Governors.



John W. Buckner, III, M.D. – member of the State Board of Health.



Peggy Tuter Pearl, C.H.E. – member of the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board.



Ervin W. Dock – member of the Missouri Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists.

Re-appointed were Bernadette A. Miller, member of the Missouri Veterans' Commission; and Cathy E. Stroud, member of the Credit Union Commission.

On Time. Balanced. No New Taxes.

Missouri's 2005-2006 Spending Plan

Budget Bullets

- \$113 million increase for the education foundation formula.
- Full funding of the First Steps program for 8,000 developmentally disabled infants and toddlers.
- Medicaid funding for hospice care, ambulance payments, oxygen and respiratory equipment, wheelchairs, diabetic supplies and prosthetics.
- \$13.8 million for the state's veteran's homes.
- \$11.5 million increase for child care for low-income working parents.
- A 64-cent/hour wage increase for home and community-based workers who provide services for the elderly and adults with disabilities.

Distribution of Each General Revenue Tax Dollar

FY 2006 Missouri Operating Appropriations
General Revenue: \$7.159 Billion



* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Leasing

** Most revenue sources for transportation are non-general revenue (fuel taxes, etc.).

Important Numbers to Know

Missouri has 16 different state departments to provide services for citizens. Several departments have special constituent services to receive complaints, to provide information pamphlets on different issues, or to answer questions.

Agriculture	(573) 751-4211
Conservation	(573) 751-4115
Corrections	(573) 751-2389
Economic Development	(573) 751-4962
Missouri Career Centers	1-888-728-5627
Missouri Division of Tourism	(573) 751-4133
Elementary & Secondary Education	(573) 751-4212
Health & Senior Services	(573) 751-6400
Family Care Safety Registry	1-866-422-6872
Elder Abuse Hotline	1-800-392-0210
Birth Records	(573) 751-6387
Death Records	(573) 751-6387
Marriage & Divorce Records	(573) 751-6387
Higher Education	(573) 751-2361
Insurance	(573) 751-4126
Consumer Toll-free Hotline	1-800-726-7390
Labor & Industrial Relations	(573) 751-9691

Governor's Council on Disability	(573) 751-2600
Commission on Human Rights	(573) 751-3325
Div. of Workers' Compensation	(573) 751-4231
Mental Health	(573) 751-4122
Natural Resources	1-800-361-4827
Division of State Parks	1-800-334-6946
Water Protection and Soil Conservation Division	1-800-361-4827
Public Safety	(573) 751-4905
Meth Hotline	1-888-823-6384
Revenue	(573) 751-4450
State tax forms	1-800-877-6881
Refund Inquiry Line	(573) 751-3505
Social Services	(573) 751-4815
Child Abuse/Neglect	1-800-392-3738
Family Services Hotline	1-800-392-1261
Parental Stress Help Line	1-800-367-2543
Transportation	(573) 751-2551
Road Conditions Hotline	1-800-222-6400
Springfield District Office	(417) 895-7600

A Note on Senator Champion

Senator Norma Champion serves as the state senator for the City of Springfield and a portion of Greene County outside of the city limits. She previously served in the Missouri House of Representatives for 10 years and on the Springfield City Council for 5 years.

A professor at Evangel University, Senator Champion holds a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and has done post-graduate study at the University of London. For 29 years, she produced and hosted "The Children's Hour" on KYTV in Springfield.

Senator Champion has two children, Jeffrey and Brooke, and two grandchildren. She is the widow of Reverend Richard Champion.



Contact Senator Champion

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