



*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2005**

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## **State Sen. Kevin Engler and State Rep. Steve Tilley Join Forces to Reduce Drug Use in Schools**

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JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, and State Rep. Steve Tilley, R-Perryville, have launched nearly identical legislative measures that would reduce drug use in schools by preventing doctor-prescribed medicine from being used by students who do not have a prescription.

Senate Bill 254 and House Bill 355 would make it illegal for a minor to distribute prescription medication to any individual on school property who does not have a valid prescription, as well as make it a crime to possess said medicine without a prescription.

“Medicine that might improve the health of one student could harm the health of another,” Engler said. “We can prevent this serious problem by nixing the accessibility factor. If this sort of drug use is illegal on school grounds, fewer students would pop illegal pills to avoid breaking the law.”

Tilley feels this legislation is a step toward the goal of ridding schools of dangerous drugs.

“A school should be a place where students can learn in a drug-free environment,” Tilley said. “I will strive to bring Republicans and Democrats together to pass this important piece of legislation.”

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Engler and Tilley want to work with law enforcement and school and juvenile center officials to ensure the safety of students and also to help students who have drug problems.

“It is important that we be consistent across the board with all types of prescription medication,” said David Waters, principle at Farmington High School. “These bills would allow us to address this problem in conjunction with local law enforcement.”

“Juvenile Officers from around the state have reported that this is a major problem,” said Jay Scruggs, a Juvenile Officer at the Juvenile Detention Center in Farmington. “Students have been hospitalized after taking prescription medications.”

On first offenses under SB 254 and HB 355, any person who distributes prescription medication to someone without a prescription would be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. Any person found in possession of prescription medication without a prescription would be charged with a Class C misdemeanor.

“The only lesson our children should learn in school about non-prescription drugs is that they are bad—for their health, for their social life, for their well-being,” Engler said. “If getting this lesson across to students means we have to make it illegal to use another person’s prescription drugs, then that is the initiative we have to take on behalf of our children’s best interest.”

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