



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz
16th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 425
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
April 18, 2005

Contact: David Woodruff
(573) 751-2108

Barnitz Sends Personal Greetings from the Missouri State Senate

Pomp and Circumstance followed by Prudence and Good Sense

From the Desk of Frank Barnitz: This was quite a week my family and I. Monday my family, friends and supporters from across the 16th Senatorial District joined me as I took the oath of the State Senate.

I want to send a heart-felt and hearty thank you to all the citizens of the 16th District for their support. It was a special honor to have so many people take the time out of their busy lives to join me in Jefferson City. Please know that I will do my best to be a positive voice for rural Missouri in our State Capitol.

But now the 'pomp and circumstance' has ended, and we attend to the business of the State.

This week we tackled many issues in the State Senate, most notably reducing the ability for abortions to take place in Missouri, to setting stricter penalties and setting mandatory sentencing guidelines for drinking and driving offenders.

I agree that penalties for individuals who are repeat alcohol-related offenders and inflict serious injury or death on innocent people should be punished to the full extent of the law, but I will make you all aware that this will increase costs to our corrections budget.

When mandates on State Departments and local governments increase, so to costs.

The public and personal experiences drive these issues. I fully support citizens taking an active role in our governing process, but I am weary of laws enacted in response to poor judgment or by a small minority of people.

An issue I watch closely is our state budget. I am keenly aware that budgets on the state and local levels are tight. I keep a close eye to see that our actions in Jefferson City do not add to the stress on other levels. For example, It troubles me that when our state government reduces funding for higher education, it will either cost parents more in tuition increases, or it will limit the number of our children who now have the financial ability to attend college.

I welcome correspondence on these issues and any others. **Please do not hesitate to contact my office in the State Capitol, Room 425, phone 573-751-2108,** at any time, for any reason.

Frank Barnitz
Missouri State Senate
District 16

-END-