



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz
16th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 425
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
April 28, 2005

Contact: David Woodruff
(573) 751-2108

Cuts Lead to Ruts

Barnitz Urges Solutions Instead of Quick Fix

JEFFERSON CITY – The massive cuts in the State Budget to Medicaid, adoptive parents, and jobs have been well publicized. These types of cuts will give the State a case of deja-vu next spring, and we'll be facing the same problems again.

As a Senator with two weeks seniority, some Senators would prefer I not say a word, but this week I could not sit down. I stood up and urged leadership to start planning for the future of our state, and to take a global viewpoint. We must generate new revenue by investing in jobs and new businesses that will then pay their fair share in taxes to the state. That means we must stop raising fees and taxes, and start raising awareness, education, and positive investment.

I know all too well that our state is in financial strain, but different decisions can be made to lessen the impact. I'm a Democrat, and I would like to say that the Republicans holding the Appropriations Chair positions in the House and the Senate were both dealt a difficult situation, and both have handled the process in an open and fair procedural manner. Even though our ideas may differ, I commend them on their hard work.

As I said before, some issues have gotten a lot of publicity, but a couple issues seem to be on the 'back burner' — I am still hot on them.

An additional \$40 million was cut from Higher Education. This eliminates the financial burden from the state, but it directly defers those costs onto students and parents. That cut will also reduce the programs offered by University Extension.

One Senator remarked, “University Extension is one area that can be reduced without impact.” I disagree. University Extension, including 4-H programs, nutrition education, small business development, production agriculture programs, are not only agricultural investments they are what’s bringing families back to rural Missouri. Cutting these investments may help the budget for a few months, but it drains us of the values we cherish for a generation. I fight for those values, and I’ll continue to do so.

Late this week the newest funding formula for education was defeated by Republicans and Democrats, in both rural and urban areas. The primary concern was that there was simply not enough funding to implement the formula. In addition, it was felt that more input from teachers, administrators, property owners, and businesses were needed.

I appreciate the many calls and letters I have received in the last two weeks concerning our government. Please continue to inform and assist me in best representing the people of the 16th Senatorial District. My Capitol Office is: Room 425, phone: 573-751-2108, and e-mail: Frank.Barnitz@senate.mo.gov.

Thank you for your interest in your government and the future of Missouri.

###