



**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

**John Cauthorn**  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 426  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101  
PHONE (573) 751-6858  
TDD (573) 751-3969  
FAX (573) 751-6900  
EMAIL [john\\_cauthorn@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:john_cauthorn@senate.state.mo.us)

**For Immediate Release:**  
**April 21, 2005, 2005**

**Contact: Steven Cowen**  
**(573) 751-6858**

## **The Cauthorn Report**

JEFFERSON CITY, MO - More than 8,000 Missouri children with developmental disabilities in the First Steps program will continue to receive services under legislation passed by the Senate this week. Senate Bill 500 works to improve efficiency in the Missouri First Steps program, which offers early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Senator John Cauthorn (R-18) voted in favor of the legislation.

"We have found a solution to preserve the First Steps program while ensuring future longevity and well-being of a tremendous service to our children," said Cauthorn.

The bill transfers oversight of First Steps services to regional centers created by the legislation. A participation fee has also been introduced for families able to pay. Families on Medicaid and those deemed unable to pay are exempt from the fee, which is based on a sliding scale that runs between \$5 and \$100 per month.

The bill also requires health insurance agencies to cover First Steps for children diagnosed with developmental disabilities. Agencies would be required to cover up to \$3,000 per child each year for up to three years.

Protecting the sanctity of life has been a staple of Senator Cauthorn's service in Jefferson City. Cauthorn voted in favor of Senate Bill 2 allowing legal action against people who help minors get abortions in other states. The measure would also prohibit abortions at clinics or facilities that receive tax payer dollars.

Senator Cauthorn's legislation creating a "Respect Life" license plate was included in the bill. Instead of the slogan "Show Me State" license plates will read "Respect Life" and will bear the image of a single red rose. Plates may be obtained from the Department of revenue after a \$25 annual donation to the Alternatives to Abortion Support Fund.

"Missourians who share my belief in protecting the unborn will be able to make a donation to a great fund providing viable and practical options to abortion while showing their support for a great cause on their vehicle," said Cauthorn.

Dr. Toni Smith of Kirksville was appointed this week to the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts by Governor Blunt and confirmed by the Senate.

"Dr. Smith has provided quality anesthesiology services to the people of northeast Missouri and has been a leader in her profession," said Cauthorn. I believe she will serve the state well in her new role."

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri's 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6850.

You can also visit his web page by going to [www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn](http://www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn).