

Stouffer Optimistic for Session Beginnings

I am honored to be serving as the 21st Senatorial District's voice in the Missouri Senate. Many exciting matters have taken place since the election in November.

After a few weeks off to work on the harvest, I went to the capitol and learned the rules and procedures of the senate. As of December 1st legislation could be pre-filed and co-sponsored. (Pre-filing is the step before a bill is first read on the senate floor.)

This week was the first week of session. It started Sunday with a commissioning from my church. On Wednesday, Along with 17 men and women, 11 of which are new members, we were introduced and inaugurated to the 93rd General Assembly. After inauguration senate bills were first read.

Thursday during session we were assigned to committees. I will be serving as the vice-chairman of agriculture. It will be a pleasure to serve as leadership on the agriculture committee and be a benefit to this district.

Other committees will include aging, families, mental and public health; governmental accountability and fiscal oversight; and transportation.

I have co-sponsored SB 10, which requires pseudoephedrine products to be sold by a pharmacist or technician. Pseudoephedrine is one ingredient to making meth. It will limit the availability of the drug to help stop the meth problem in the state of Missouri, and will still be available over the counter. Once the law was in place in Oklahoma it cut the meth production by 75 percent.

Other legislation that will be coming up in the senate and will help the district are tort reform, which is meant to bring doctors and businesses back to our state. Next, is meaningful worker's compensation and unemployment legislation passed this session. Last, a ban on human cloning and the end to embryonic stem-cell research.

I have already met with many leaders in agriculture to talk about their and my ideas on reforms to the industry.

The education foundation formula will be a priority as session moves along. There will also be other legislation that comes up as we get further into session.

Each week, I will be talking about a specific issue rather than what has gone on in session that week. I will be discussing in full the topics of tort reform, embryonic stem-cell research, worker's compensation, the foundation formula, and all other issues that are important to this community.

I encourage everyone to be involved in the political process either by coming by my office, sending me ideas for legislation, calling, or emailing. If you have questions about this article or any other issues please contact me by toll free at (866) 768-3987 or by email at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.