

*“Nothing is politically right
which is morally wrong.”*
– Daniel O’Connell



*“Free and fair discussion will ever be
found the firmest friend of truth.”*
– George Campbell

MISSOURI SENATE

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Have Your Voice Heard- **Joint Interim Committees and Joint Committees**

If you believe you have an answer to a Missouri problem and you think your voice is not being heard or you feel left out of the democratic process, you need to read the following. This summer, many committees will be traveling throughout the state to hear public testimony and gather legislative ideas to be introduced next year. There are several legislative committees taking place and you can sign up to share your story or ideas.

A popular committee this interim is the Medicaid Reform Commission. The commission has already listened to testimony in Jefferson City and will be listening to testimony in Kansas City July 26-28. This commission will be rewriting the state’s Medicaid plan. If you are on Medicaid or have seen the Medicaid program abused, now is the time you can be heard. You can sign up to testify on the Web at www.senate.mo.gov under the Medicaid Reform Commission or you can contact my office.

I am chairing the Joint Committee on a Missouri Health Care Stabilization Fund. This committee is investigating the Kansas Health Care Stabilization Fund, which helps keep medical malpractice insurance low. Yes, we had the passage of tort reform, but we are still one liberal judge away from continuing ridiculous rewards on non-economic damages. We need more than tort reform -- we need a new system. A stabilization fund will allow our state the opportunity to provide medical malpractice insurance to all healthcare providers at a lower cost. This would hopefully increase access to health care, particularly in rural Missouri. The Joint Committee on a Missouri Health Care Stabilization Fund will be coming to Excelsior Springs on August 3-4.

If you are interested in higher education, there is a Joint Interim Committee on Investments in Higher Education and Savings Programs. Other Senate interim committees are focusing on tax increment financing and title insurance.

An individual can testify throughout the interim and legislative session to joint committees made up of both House and Senate members. They include education, agriculture, transportation and many more.

Now is the time for citizens to discuss state government programs and share topics and ideas by testifying.

This week, we helped a woman in Lafayette County sign up to testify before the Medicaid Reform Commission. We would be more than willing to help anyone else who wants to have their voice heard. If you would like to testify or want more information about committees, please feel free to contact my office.

And if you have questions or comments about any other issue, please feel free to call my office toll free 866-768-3987 or email me at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.