



# THE STOUFFER REPORT

**Senator Bill Stouffer**  
Senate District 21

**Capitol Building, Room 332**  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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**Contact: Aaron Baker**  
(573) 751-1507

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## **New Legislation Continues Commitment to Health and Agriculture**

As the new year approaches, so does the coming legislative session. Lawmakers convene in Jefferson City on Wednesday, Jan. 4, to begin debating new legislation. As a result, members of the Missouri General Assembly recently were allowed to begin pre-filing legislation for the 2006 session. The three bills I have filed so far illustrate my focus on health care and agriculture.

One measure I have filed for the coming session provides more living options for seniors beyond their own homes or nursing homes. Senate Bill 616 requires assisted-living centers to employ enough skilled staff members to provide 24-hour care for residents. The facility must also have a written plan for the protection of all residents in the event of a disaster and offer self-care and leisure activity programs.

These measures will ensure we provide safe, comfortable places for our seniors to live out their final years with dignity. Currently, residents of these facilities cannot take out their own hearing aides to sleep without violating state regulations. They are either forced to live in a nursing home or move back to their own home. This bill is meant to being a more common-sense approach to providing shelter for our greatest generation.

I am also sponsoring legislation to make it easier and more affordable to donate money to children's residential treatment agencies, such as Missouri Baptist Children's Homes. SB 614 implements a tax credit, purchased by the agency, of up to 50 percent of donations made to qualifying treatment agencies. These organizations work to help young people who have histories of physical abuse, developmental disorders or physical disabilities.

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We should make it as easy as possible for individuals to donate to these organizations. If enacted, this bill would make it easier to leverage private dollars to fund some our state's most important work. It is a win-win for all Missourians, and it has no fiscal impact on the state budget.

Another bill I am sponsoring expands protections of agricultural research and production. SB 615 extends the "Animal Research and Production Facilities Protection Act" so that its provisions apply to all agricultural research and production facilities. The bill adds to the list of punishable offenses waged against forestry, horticulture and tobacco production.

Protections are being added so that these facilities are allowed to continue their good work for the sake of Missourians and all Americans without being threatened by individuals with destructive motives.

Although we are still a month away from the 2006 legislative session, I want to get a head start on legislation that will benefit the 21<sup>st</sup> District and all of Missouri. If you have an idea or question about legislation for 2006, please contact my office.

If you have questions or comments about this issue or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by email at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

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