

Room 423 - State Capitol Bldg. - Jefferson City, MO 65101 - Phone 573-751-8635

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **JANUARY 11, 2005**

## Senator Chuck Gross to Hold Public Hearings on State Budget Bills

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Chuck Gross, R-St. Charles, announced today that the Senate Appropriations committee will hear public testimony on the budget bills of three departments on Thurs., Jan. 13, at 8 a.m. in Senate Committee Room 2 on the first floor of the Capitol.

"It is paramount for us to find a way to balance the state budget so that we can still provide programs and services to Missourians without raising their taxes," said Gross, who is chairman of the appropriations committee. "As a means to our desired end, input from the public is welcomed and encouraged throughout this upcoming session."

The first three of the 12 department budgets that the panel will hear testimony on are for the Department of Insurance, the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations, which includes the Division of Workers' Compensation.

Those interested in testifying on issues relating to the aforementioned departments should contact Sen. Gross' office at (573) 751-8635 or the Appropriations staff toll free at (866) 274-8748 or e-mail public.testimony@senate.mo.gov.