



STATE SENATOR JASON CROWELL - ROOM 323, STATE CAPITOL - JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

## Special Session Update

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*Pro Life/ Pro Family/ Pro Missouri*

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Last session, the Missouri Legislature considered legislation that if enacted would have protected the safety of young women and the lives of unborn children. But when the session ended in May, because of a pro-abortion filibuster, the legislation died. Due to the importance of this legislation, Governor Matt Blunt called a special session that began meeting this past Tuesday to pass this vital legislation. After lengthy debate, the Senate approved the measure Thursday night by a vote of 26 in favor and 6 opposed, and sent it to the House for consideration.



### **Pro-Life**

The pro-life legislation we passed will reduce the number of abortions in our state. The first major provision of the law reinforces parental consent for teens seeking abortion. This legislation, known as the “Parental Consent Restoration Act,” prohibits anyone from knowingly helping a minor under 18 travel to another state to get an abortion without her parent’s consent. Anyone who “causes, aids, or assists” a minor to obtain an abortion without the required consent will be civilly liable to the minor, her parents, and or legal guardian. The other major provision of the legislation requires doctors to have gynecological-care privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the clinic where they perform abortions. This will ensure that those having an abortion will receive the best care possible, and if any complications occur, a qualified hospital would be nearby.

### **Workers’ Compensation**

The Senate also took up legislation that would fix a technical drafting error in the successful workers’ compensation reform that we passed last session. The workers’ compensation system was created 80 years ago as a way to resolve injury claims through administrative proceedings rather than the courts. The legislation from last session contained a clause from a previous version of the bill that should have been removed but was not. As a result, it is questionable if workers injured on the job will have access to the benefits provided by the state’s workers’ compensation system- the very reason it exists. I sponsored the legislation that will fix this inadvertent drafting error because I believe that the faster we get rid of the ambiguity and bring clarity into this

area of the law, the better it is for Missouri's workers. The legislation was approved by the Senate at 3:30 AM Friday and will now move to the House for consideration. A separate, but more important vote that would have made the legislation immediately effective upon signature by the Governor failed as partisan Senate Democrats voted against the emergency clause. As a result, this ambiguity will continue for an additional 90 days, leaving fears that workers are running bare, where they won't have access to Missouri's workers' compensation law. I am disappointed partisan Senate Democrats put politics over people and chose to delay certainty of coverage and workers' compensation benefits to injured workers.

### **Pro-Missouri**

Next week the Senate will examine drafting errors in other pieces of legislation that were approved this past session. Senate Bills 37 and 402 and House Bill 972 are alcohol-related laws with conflicting degrees of criminal charges for adults who knowingly allow minors other than their own children to drink on their property. We will be redrafting parts of the laws so that all of them match. We will also work to clear up the conflicting language in two bills; one makes illegal the distribution of a prescription drug at school by anyone under 18, and the other prohibits it by anyone under 21. We will discuss the two versions and come up with a suitable agreement.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com> and <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.