



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Pro-Life Caucus

JEFFERSON CITY – One of our greatest disappointments of the 2005 legislative session was not passing pro-life legislation. We are a very strong pro-life caucus and pro-life Legislature.

The Missouri Senate drafted very good legislation early in the session. Unfortunately, there was a lot of jockeying between pro-life groups outside of the Capitol building that ultimately led to the demise of the final package.

On the final day of the session, Governor Matt Blunt announced his intention to call a special session to consider new pro-life legislation in Missouri to reduce the number of abortions. Although lawmakers will deal with a number of issues during the special session when it begins September 6, the principal purpose of the session will be to protect unborn children and their mothers.

I was honored to be named chairman of the new Pro-Life Senate Caucus, established by Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons. The goal of the caucus will be to take the lead on pro-life issues during the special session and to improve communication between the various pro-life groups in the state.

There are three important provisions lawmakers should approve during the special session to help reduce the number of abortions in Missouri:

- Prohibiting a person from helping a minor obtain an abortion without the consent of a parent or legal guardian. This is designed to stop the transporting of minors across the state line to Illinois, which has no parental consent law.
- Clearly defining “next friend” – an individual who helps minors get an exemption from the parental consent law in court – as someone who is not associated with or working for an abortion organization.
- Requiring anyone who offers abortions to have clinical privileges at a hospital that offers obstetrical or gynecological care within 30 miles of the place where the abortions are provided.

Although I am disappointed these important provisions did not pass during the regular session, I and my pro-life colleagues remain committed to the cause and will work tirelessly to ensure they are approved during the special session.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.