



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Saving Money on Prescription Drugs

JEFFERSON CITY – The high cost of prescription drugs is a growing burden on Missouri families and senior citizens. Too often, elderly Missourians are forced to choose between purchasing needed medications or buying food.

I believe more should be done to ensure Missourians who are struggling to get by have access to life-saving prescription drugs. Senate Bill 575, which I will introduce during the upcoming legislative session, will help accomplish that goal.

Currently, large amounts of prescription drugs are discarded by nursing homes. Nursing homes and other long-term care facilities purchase 30-day supplies of prescription drugs, and those pills are individually packaged, as required by law. However, if a doctor changes a resident's prescription, the nursing home often has to destroy the remaining pills and medications.

Under SB 575, the department of health and senior services would develop a program through which unused prescription drugs may be transferred from long-term care facilities to city or county health departments. City and county health departments could then distribute those prescription drugs to low-income residents who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Participation in the program would be voluntary. The legislation also offers limited legal protection to long-term care facilities and city and county health departments that participate in the program.

Hard-working Missourians who live from paycheck to paycheck should not have to choose between paying the utility bill and putting food on the table, or purchasing medications prescribed by their physician.

SB 575 will help alleviate the rising cost of staying healthy while reducing waste in our health care system.

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.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov)

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