



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 13, 2005

State Sen. Norma Champion's "Senior Rx" Coverage Gap Bill Receives Final Passage

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Senate gave final approval today to legislation sponsored by State Sen. Norma Champion, R-Springfield, ensuring that those enrolled in the "Senior Rx" Program will receive uninterrupted drug-benefit coverage until the federal-based program starts in January 2006.

Senate Bills 75 and 353 close the gap between the expiration date of the state's prescription program and the start date of the federal program.

"Nearly 20,000 elderly Missourians have gained access to prescription drugs that their private insurance wouldn't pay for," Champion said. "It is of the utmost importance that we do not desert these individuals who need to have access to their medication without any breaks in coverage."

Lawmakers designed the "Senior Rx" program four years ago to provide senior citizens with high-quality pharmaceutical products at affordable prices.

The bills now head to the House for similar consideration. If approved there, the legislation will head to the governor to be signed into law.

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