



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Chris Koster
31st Senate District

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For Immediate Release:
December 2, 2005

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Sen. Koster Files 2006 Legislation *Makes Safety and Government Efficiency a Priority*

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate began pre-filing bills Thurs., Dec. 1, for the 2nd Regular Session of the 93rd Missouri General Assembly, which convenes January 4th. Senator Chris Koster, R-Cass, took the opportunity to file five bills.

“Over the past several months I have had opportunities to visit with constituents and learn about what issues are important to them,” Koster said. “These bills were developed from those conversations, and people’s desires to see government efficient and their families safe.”

Koster’s bills would:

- **Increase penalties for sex offenders who fail to register.** Currently, failure to register as a sex offender is a Class A misdemeanor, or in more serious cases, a Class D felony. Koster’s bill would make the minimum charge for failure to register a Class D felony, and increase the penalties for more serious cases. These improvements will help to ensure that the public has accurate information regarding the location of sex offenders in their community. (SB619)
- **Allow the Department of Social Services to transfer child support payments through electronic debit cards.** Under Koster’s bill custodial parents would be able to receive support payments electronically, rather than through the mail. This legislation would save the state money by increasing efficiency, and it would help ensure custodial parents receive the child support to which they are entitled. (SB618)

- **Encourage organ donations by offering donors a \$10,000 tax deduction.** While many people in the state have selflessly provided life-saving organ donations, there is still a waiting list for those in need. This legislation would encourage organ donation and provide a financial incentive to those who make this amazing sacrifice. (SB668)

- **Require a cost/benefit analysis before any mental health facility in the state can be closed.** Of particular concern to the residents of the 31st Senatorial District is the continued availability of mental health services at the Nevada Habilitation Center in Vernon County. The center serves individuals throughout southwest Missouri who have developmental disabilities. This bill would help ensure the longevity of this important facility. (SB617)

- **Increase the penalties for motorists who fail to yield to motorcycles and cause a traffic accident.** In 2004, 55 persons were killed and 1,774 were injured in motorcycle accidents in Missouri. This bill would make Missouri a safer place for those traveling the state’s highways and streets. (SB669)

“The upcoming session will be filled with many challenges,” Koster said. “I am looking forward to moving my legislative priorities forward, and representing the 31st Senatorial District in important issues such as health care and the budget.”

*Senator Chris Koster represents the people of Bates, Cass,
Johnson and Vernon counties in the Missouri Senate.*

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