



MISSOURI SENATOR MAIDA COLEMAN

5TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 220



For Immediate Release October 23, 2006:

Adoption, child support under study by Senate interim committee

ST. LOUIS – Adoption promotion and child support enforcement are the charges of an interim state Senate committee which will meet Nov. 14 in St. Louis at a time and place yet to be determined. The committee met last week Missouri State University in Springfield, according to member Sen. Maida Coleman (D-5th district).

“We heard testimony from not just administrators of the adoption and child support enforcement systems, but from citizens involved in those systems,” the Senate Minority leader said. “These people cited major flaws in the systems and offered some good potential solutions.”

Sen. Coleman and Sen. Rita Days (D-14th) are the only Democrats on the five-person committee. Sen. Coleman said she thought the St. Louis meeting would be at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The committee has seven duties, including the study of recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive parents; examination of foster program funding and outreach efforts; evaluation of adoption processes; review of adoption laws, including termination of parental rights; improvement of customer services like processing and disbursing of child support collections; and studying of state responsibilities, including locating parents, establishing paternity and monitoring and enforcing compliance with child and medical support orders.

“I look forward to citizens in the St. Louis area having a chance to present their concerns and ideas in regard to adoption and child support enforcement,” Sen. Coleman said. “This interim committee is on a fact-finding mission, and we need the input of those directly involved in the systems.”

-30-

For more information, contact: Sen. Maida Coleman at (573) 751-2606