



THE LOUDON TIMES

Senator John Loudon
Senate District 7

Capitol Building, Room 422
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Column for Week of:
Jan. 9, 2006

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Kicking Off the 2006 Legislative Session

With lawmakers once again gathering in Jefferson City, I want to keep all of my constituents informed of the important issues facing legislators this session. So I will be sending out The Loudon Times each week during the 2006 session to keep you connected with the Capitol. This year I have identified several issues that I will focus on to improve the lives of Missourians, including increasing penalties for sexual predators and making adoption tax credits more available. I will also be filing legislation to protect the future of military families, reform Missouri insurance law and reduce Medicaid fraud.

After a successful 2005 legislative season in which I sponsored measures reforming workers' compensation law and protecting Missouri's parental-consent abortion law, I am ready to continue the work we have done making Missouri a better place. I will again chair the Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations Committee and serve as vice-chair of the Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee. I will also continue on the Education and Gubernatorial Appointments committees, as well as the Joint Committee on Gaming and Wagering. These positions will allow me to further our agenda for the benefit of the 7th District and Missouri as a whole.



Governor Blunt's State of the State Address

Gov. Blunt's State of the State Address outlined several of the top issues state officials will be facing in 2006. The governor called on lawmakers to increase funding for education, work to develop a comprehensive energy plan and strengthen laws against sexual predators, among other important priorities. Lawmakers are determined to fulfill these vital commitments, and I am focusing on protecting our children from sex offenders while increasing the availability of tax credits for adoption.



Legislative Priorities

My number-one priority this session is enhancing protections for our children against sexual predators. Current laws are too lenient for these heinous offenders. Senate Bill 563 increases penalties for those who molest children under age 11, allows probation and parole officers to search the computer hard drives of sex offenders and requires sex offenders to register their motor vehicle information, among other provisions. We have taken the best aspects of Megan's Law and Jessica's Law and combined them to ensure sexual predators receive adequate jail sentences. Missouri lawmakers will not allow the kinds of light sentences for sex offenders that we recently saw in Vermont.

My legislation has received a pat on the back from the Missouri attorney general, and the chairman of the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee has said the bill will be moving along soon. Our children are too vulnerable to sex offenders in our state. These measures will ensure that those who mean the most to us are adequately protected.

I have also sponsored legislation allowing the use of available tax credits for non-resident adoptions. Non-resident adoption is the process of a citizen of one state adopting a resident of

another. This legislation, SB 564, will further efforts to make adoption a more viable option for Missouri families.

If you have questions or comments about these issues or any other topic, please call my Capitol office at (573) 751-9763. I have many new staffers at my Jefferson City office. My staff, which includes Chief of Staff Nick Bengston and Administrative Assistant Pam Gilmore, is happy to take your calls. I would also like to introduce my interns for 2006, B.J. Tanksley, who attends Southeast Missouri State University, and Hanna Brown of Rolla.

Feel free to contact us about the issues important to you, and thank you for your support.

Quote of the week

The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer