



THE LOUDON TIMES

Senator John Loudon
Senate District 7

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Busy Week Marked by Academy Day and Legislation Creating a Safer, More Consumer-Friendly Missouri

Wednesday marked the last day to introduce new legislation in the Missouri Senate, so there was much activity as lawmakers rushed to file bills. However, I was fortunate enough to spend part of my week speaking with members of the 7th District.



The Seventh district Leadership Academy with Senator Loudon

This week marked the 12th year of my Leadership Academy Day. A group of 25 students from throughout the district came to Jefferson City for a tour of the governor's mansion and a visit to the Senate Chamber as special guests. I was also paid a visit this week from a group of fourth-graders from McNair Elementary School in Hazelwood. It is always a pleasure to introduce young people to the legislative process.

Of course, that legislative process continued this week. Two bills making important reforms to state vehicle regulations this week advanced in the Senate. Senate Bill 583 makes more consumer-friendly the emissions-inspections program affecting residents of the St. Louis metropolitan area. SB 583 replaces the system of specialized emissions-testing stations now in place with a plan allowing certified motor-vehicle repair workers at private repair shops to perform emissions tests. Also under the bill, vehicles manufactured prior to 1996 will be exempt from emissions inspections and will only be required to undergo a gas-cap pressure test. The legislation was approved this week by the Senate.

Another bill advancing this week makes vital improvements to highway safety in Missouri. SB 872 increases fines for various offenses that occur within highway work or construction zones and creates the crime of “endangerment of a highway worker.” The measure also stiffens penalties against motorists who fail to move over when approaching stationary emergency vehicles.

Together, these measures will make driving easier on members of the St. Louis metro area and improve highway safety for all Missouri citizens.

Landmark Legislation

This week also witnessed the introduction of landmark legislation in the Senate. Two measures aiming to ban abortions in Missouri were filed. SB 1248 outlaws abortions in the state, except those performed to save the life of a pregnant woman. Senate Joint Resolution 43 proposes a constitutional amendment to ban abortions in Missouri. Proposed changes to the state constitution require a statewide vote to pass.

These measures signify a new day in Missouri. Our anti-abortion state can rally around these measures to make meaningful reforms to Missouri abortion laws to protect our unborn children.

If you have questions or comments about these issues or any other topic, please call my Capitol office at (573) 751-9763. Thank you for your support.

Quote of the Week

"My philosophy of life is that if we make up our mind what we are going to make of our lives, then work hard toward that goal, we never lose - somehow we win out."

Ronald Reagan