



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sen. Ridgeway to Donate Hair to Child in Need

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. – Building on her commitment to children, Sen. Luann Ridgeway, R-Smithville, has decided to go a step further by giving a unique gift to a child in need. She plans to cut her hair and donate it to charity at 1:30 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 3, 2006, at the Oasis Salon in Liberty, which is in her home district.

Sen. Ridgeway will donate at least ten inches of her hair to Locks of Love, a not-for-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially-needy children who suffer from long-term medical hair loss.

Ridgeway said it seemed appropriate to make the donation close to Valentine's Day.

"This is a unique gift I can give to someone who needs it more than I do," Ridgeway said. "Locks of Love is an important organization that helps restore self-esteem and confidence in children, allowing them more opportunity to have normal and happy childhoods."

Locks of Love began in 1997 and has helped more than 1,000 children to date. The children helped through Locks of Love have lost their hair due to diseases, life-threatening illnesses, or treatments for these illnesses such as chemotherapy.

"The Locks of Love program for hair donations gives children the opportunity to have real human hair wigs," Ridgeway said. "Many times these wigs can be too expensive for families to afford when they are already stricken with costly medical procedures."

Ridgeway is a cancer survivor herself. She was diagnosed with breast cancer, but is totally cancer free now. She says early diagnosis is the key to successful recovery.

"I encourage women to have annual checkups and keep in tune with any changes in their body they may experience," Ridgeway said. "Early detection saved my life."

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