



# THE STOUFFER REPORT

**Senator Bill Stouffer**  
Senate District 21

**Capitol Building, Room 332**  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**For the Week of:**  
Jan. 9, 2006

**Contact: Aaron Baker**  
(573) 751-1507

---

## Setting Our Legislative Agenda

An estimated \$245 million more in state revenue than had been predicted and 28,000 new jobs created were two of the many highlights in the governor's state of the state address. I believe the General Assembly and the governor have brought the state of Missouri out of the "red" and into the "black." There is also good news for education, health care and farmers.

The new foundation formula, which bases funding on student need instead of local tax revenues, will be fully funded. The governor has proposed a \$167-million funding increase for K-12 education, and lawmakers have every intention of ensuring public schools are adequately funded.

Gov. Blunt has also called for a 2-percent increase in funding for higher education. This is a \$17-million increase for public two- and four-year colleges and universities.

These proposals are necessary to ensure the state of Missouri continues to afford better lives to its citizens. Educating our young people will result in more and better-paying jobs for our workforce, a better quality of life for Missouri families, and increased opportunities for Missourians.

I have always been a big advocate for our seniors staying at home to receive medical care. Last night Governor Blunt added \$10 million for in-home health care. I have used the "Jiffy Lube" analogy before. If you were to take your car to Jiffy Lube anywhere in the United States, they would know what work has been done on it. However, if you went to another doctor they would not know when you received your last tetanus shot. The governor is proposing \$25 million to create a Healthcare Technology Fund to find ways to bring our health-care industry into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It is important we take care of our seniors and disabled Missourians. An additional \$275 million will go to Medicaid, and \$8.7 million will go to community health centers. With rising heat costs the governor proposed \$6.1 million for heating assistance. As Gov. Blunt said, Missourians should not have to choose between heating and eating.

As a farmer I know how important agriculture is to the state of Missouri and to the district I serve. The governor is going to help the industry by encouraging a 10 percent ethanol standard and by protecting private property through eminent domain.

By using Missouri resources to develop fuels for our homes and vehicles, we can provide new markets for hardworking Missourians and reduce our dependency on foreign oil. The Energy and Green Power Initiative will boost our rural economy by requiring motor fuel sold in Missouri for passenger vehicles to contain 10 percent ethanol.

Churches should not fear losing their property for the interest of private businesses nor shall we. I stand with the governor in fixing the Kelo decision and ensuring eminent domain protects homeowners and farmers.

I believe the governor and the General Assembly worked well together this past year and will continue to work together to make Missouri a better place to live and work.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by email at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

-END-