



# THE STOUFFER REPORT

**Senator Bill Stouffer**  
Senate District 21

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

**For the Week of:**  
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## Evaluating Progress at the Mid-session Recess

As the Missouri Senate broke for spring recess upon last week's adjournment, it is important to reflect on the progress of this session's first half. Senators have sent to the House 70 bills, and this legislation will make Missouri a better place for its citizens.

Lawmakers have passed several pieces of legislation to offer greater protections to Missouri children. Senate Bill (SB) 588 will strengthen Missouri's laws against sex offenders by improving mandatory-minimum-sentencing guidelines and requiring the worst repeat offenders to spend the rest of their lives behind bars. The bill also requires lifetime supervision and electronic monitoring of certain repeat offenders. SB 588 also establishes a toll-free abuse hotline and enhances penalties against those who entice children over the Internet. The Missouri Senate also passed SB 584, which prohibits individuals who have been arrested for drunk driving from being allowed to drive school buses.

Legislation restricting offensive funeral protests was passed by both the Senate and House and is now law. SB 578 prohibits funeral protests within one hour prior to and one hour after the completion of funerals in Missouri. This legislation will help to curb the disgusting actions of a Kansas church that celebrates American military deaths directly in front of grieving family members and sends a hate-filled message.

We also have taken a major step forward in making technological improvements to state health care. The Senate this year has passed legislation creating the Healthcare Technology Fund, which will promote technological advances to improve patient care and decrease administrative costs. By improving information sharing among health-care providers, we can offer better services at a lower cost.

As the Senate has advanced several top bills, I have also been able to advance several pieces of legislation. SB 616 implements health and safety requirements at assisted-living facilities and makes those residences accountable to residents. This legislation will offer greater protections to Missouri seniors and peace of mind to family members.

Although we have had a successful session thus far in the Missouri Senate, we still have several top priorities to wrap up in the second half. The Senate has yet to pass legislation outlawing eminent domain abuse. In spite of the 2005 U.S. Supreme Court allowing governments to seize private property for private developers, several measures are advancing in the Senate to restrict this abuse of property rights, and we will pass this needed legislation.

Senators will also work to pass the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, which would help in fighting Medicaid fraud by focusing on fraudulent health-care providers and providing financial incentives to whistle-blowers. The budget also contains approximately \$100 million in new funding for K-12 education.

This will prove to be another successful year in the Missouri General Assembly.

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).

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