



# THE STOUFFER REPORT

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

**For the Week of:**  
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## Reflecting on the 2006 Legislative Session

Protecting our homes, farms, and businesses, safeguarding our children, and ending our addition to foreign oil were some of the focal points of this legislative session.

### Ending eminent domain abuse

House Bill 1944 prohibits eminent domain from being used solely for economic purposes. The legislation also prohibits farmland from being considered "blighted," and requires factors such as fair market and heritage value to be considered when deciding fair compensation. Under HB 1944, those who have had their homes taken by a condemning authority are required to receive 25 percent more than the home's value for moving expenses. Under the heritage value provision, homes, farms or businesses that have been in the same extended family for at least 50 years will automatically receive an additional 50 percent of the land's value.

### Protecting our children

The General Assembly ultimately approved HB 1698, which imposes mandatory life sentences against certain repeat sex offenders, establishes a toll-free hotline to report sexual abuse, and allows probation and parole officers to have access to registered sex offenders' personal computers to look for evidence of child pornography. The measure also enhances penalties against those convicted of certain forcible sexual offenses, denies bail to those convicted of child molestation or possession of child pornography, and establishes a grant program to fund the hiring and training of online detectives to investigate those who use the Internet to lure children. Under the bill, some new offenses are to be included in the registry, while various nonsexual crimes no longer require offenders to be registered.

Slowing our addiction to oil:

Lawmakers also agreed to legislation requiring most gasoline sold in Missouri to contain a 10 percent ethanol blend. HB 1270 requires the ethanol standard to be in place by Jan. 1, 2008. Jet fuel and premium gasoline are exempt (ending worries about two-cycle or older engines), and the standard would be suspended if ethanol blends cost more than regular unleaded gasoline.

Giving more options to seniors

Senate Bill 616, which I sponsored, allows our seniors to have more opportunities to live in an assisted living facility rather than their own home or a skilled care facility. Most important, this bill repeals our state's archaic "pathway to safety" requirements. With the help of AARP, Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, and others, we were able to pass what some are calling the most significant piece of senior legislation in the past decade.

Of the Governor's four goals for this legislative session, notably missing from those noted above is the sale of MOHELA assets to improve higher education. Next week's report will focus on education proposals passed or failed this legislative session.

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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