



# Press Release

## State Senator Chuck Gross - District 23



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Senator Chuck Gross to Introduce Immigration Law Enforcement Bill

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### *Legislation Restores Payroll Tax/Employee Status Integrity*

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JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Chuck Gross, R-St. Charles, is drafting and will next week introduce in the Senate legislation stemming the fraudulent misclassification of undocumented workers by contractors intent on skirting immigration laws to reduce payroll tax and benefit liabilities.

“Much of the world understandably considers the United States a destination country for starting a new and better life,” Gross said. “While our nation has a series of laws, processes and procedures to follow to obtain a legal presence, there is clearly room for more vigilant immigration enforcement and that is what I intend to enable in Missouri with my legislation.”

Among several provisions, Senator Gross’s legislation is designed to:

- Impose stiffer penalties on employers intentionally classifying undocumented employees as independent contractors to avoid paying benefits and payroll taxes.
- Require out-of-state contractors and sub-contractors to make 2 percent withholding tax prepayments.
- Allow the sharing of information between the departments of revenue and labor to enforce wage withholding compliance.
- Provide “whistleblower” protections for employees calling attention to employer misdeeds.

“Another important facet of this legislation is the prohibition of state subsidies to contractors employing illegal immigrants to construct projects financed with Industrial Development Authority loans,” Gross said. “This would be helpful to local agencies such as St. Charles County’s Economic Development Center, which has financed housing projects in the past without the authoritative power to remedy construction labor status problems.”

Gross points to the recent discovery of seven illegal immigrants recently discovered working at an O’Fallon housing project construction site in O’Fallon as just the latest in a string of incidents calling attention to the need for stricter and broader oversight of undocumented workers.

“Employing undocumented workers sets up a chain of negative events,” Gross said. “Along with the misclassification of workers to avoid paying benefits and payroll taxes, comes the equally pressing issue of jobs being funneled away from those here legally to those here illegally. The provisions of my legislation will significantly blunt both edges of this double-edged sword.”

Senator Gross’s immigration integrity initiative will soon be heard in committee before moving to the full Senate. Joint House and Senate passage would move the legislation to the governor, whose signature would enact the bill’s provisions.

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