



## MISSOURI SENATE

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A Column for the Week  
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# Keeping Special Interests from Tilting the Scales of Democracy

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*Sen. Mayer also advances important health-care and education bills*

JEFFERSON CITY — A couple of weeks ago in this column I addressed legislation revising state laws concerning lobbyist gifts and campaign contributions. The bill is designed to offer greater transparency to the public. I have sponsored my own legislation to eliminate potential conflicts of interest, and it has to do with bond elections.

Senate Bill 1035 prohibits law firms and investment businesses that have an interest in campaigns to implement general obligation bonds from providing financial support for the campaigns. These firms can provide intellectual assistance, such as helping to develop campaign strategies or promotional materials, but they cannot directly contribute money to the campaigns.

Lawyers and investors can earn significant benefits from bond initiatives approved by voters. This legislation ensures that these businesses are not simply investing their money in bond campaigns in hopes of reaping healthy financial rewards in return.

I was happy that legislation I have been working hard on for two years received committee approval this week. SB 792, which was combined with similar legislation, expands insurance coverage for clinical trials for cancer treatment. The legislation requires health insurance companies to provide coverage for routine patient-care costs incurred as the result of phase I or II clinical trials undertaken to treat cancer. Current law requires coverage only for phases III or IV.

SB 792 supports research of cancer treatment while allowing cancer patients to receive treatment through clinical trials. The measure will help ensure that Missourians who have cancer, now and in the future, receive the best treatment available to them.

Finally this week, the Senate approved legislation I am sponsoring that allows the Puxico R-VIII, Valley R-VI, and Bismarck R-V school districts to make a one-time transfer from the incidental fund to the capital projects fund in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of that district's June 30, 2006, incidental fund.

These measures will improve ethics, health care and public schools in the 25<sup>th</sup> District and throughout the state.

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*Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.*