



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of February 13, 2006**

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Saving Money, Eliminating Waste

JEFFERSON CITY – This week the Missouri Senate advanced legislation I am sponsoring to ensure Missourians who are struggling to get by have access to life-saving prescription drugs.

Currently, large amounts of prescription drugs are discarded by nursing homes. Nursing homes and other long-term care facilities purchase 30-day supplies of prescription drugs, and those pills are individually packaged, as required by law. However, if a doctor changes a resident's prescription, the nursing home often has to destroy the remaining pills and medications.

Under Senate Bill 575, the department of health and senior services would develop a program through which unused prescription drugs may be transferred from long-term care facilities to city or county health departments. City and county health departments could then distribute those prescription drugs to low-income residents who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Participation in the program would be voluntary. The legislation also offers limited legal protection to long-term care facilities and city and county health departments that participate in the program.

The measure also provides that drugs donated under the Prescription Drug Repository Program that are not accepted by pharmacies, hospitals or clinics can be donated to out-of-state charitable organizations, or foreign medical aid mission groups that distribute pharmaceuticals and healthcare supplies to needy people abroad

SB 575 will help alleviate the rising cost of staying healthy while reducing waste in our health care system.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.