



**State Senator Jack Goodman, District 29**

# **CAPITOL REPORT**

PHONE: (573)751-2234

FAX: (573)526-9808

E-MAIL: [jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov)

**January 30, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **A New Session of Promise**

Being newly elected to represent the 29<sup>th</sup> District in the Missouri Senate, I am looking forward to the progress of the 2006 legislative session. Before we get too far into the session, I would like to introduce myself to you.

For five generations, my family has called Southwest Missouri home. I am deeply connected to the people, the land and the strong moral principles that we all share. I have a soft spot for children's issues, which can be attributed to the paternal instinct I acquired thanks to my precious 3-year-old son. My experiences as an assistant prosecuting attorney place law enforcement issues at the top of my legislative agenda. I am committed to protecting Missourians from the evils of methamphetamine and other crimes.

Although this is my first session in the Missouri Senate, I am very familiar with the legislative process as I served in the House of Representatives from 2002 through 2005. I will continue in the Senate to advocate for small businesses and family farms, secure valuable resources for Southwest Missouri and advance legislation that promotes our tourism industry.

Over the next week or two, I will be introducing several bills affecting our district and the entire state of Missouri. Senate Bill 911 would repeal Missouri's estate tax so that personal assets would be protected from unfair taxation upon death. The federal government has yet to develop a permanent plan to deal with the estate tax problem. Rather than waiting for the U.S. Congress to solve this problem, I am working to make Missouri a national leader on this issue by permanently repealing our state's death tax.

-MORE-

Another measure I will soon be filing would grant you the right to “stand your ground” in scenarios that call for self-defense. This means you could use deadly force to protect yourself if your family home, vehicle or workplace is unlawfully invaded.

I am also committed to help Missourians who are having trouble paying their health insurance premiums. Therefore, I am crafting legislation to increase access to quality health care. I will keep you posted on the progress of these and other legislative proposals measures, as well as explain other bills of mine in future reports.

I will also be working with my colleagues in the Missouri General Assembly to advance several important, common priorities. Our top priority is ensuring that our children receive a first-class education by fully funding the foundation formula and seeing to it that more of each dollar directly reaches the classrooms. We also are faced with an energy crisis, which is taking its financial toll on Missouri’s working families. We will be working to create a comprehensive energy action plan to offer home-heating assistance for low-income Missourians, explore agriculture-based fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel, and produce renewable energies that will decrease our dependency on foreign resources.

Missouri’s state-funded health-care system will be a focus again this session. In 2005, we significantly cut waste in Medicaid, saved Missouri an estimated \$600 million, and ensured the program remains viable. We still have much work to do in this area. One of our remaining objectives is to improve the Medicaid program to offer the poorest of Missourians better medical care that employs modern technology. Funding law-enforcement facilities and increasing penalties for sexual predators and those who abuse seniors are also on our agenda. We will also be looking closely at the eminent domain process, which has recently allowed local governments to trample the rights of private property owners.

As the 2006 legislative session gets underway, I welcome your ideas, questions and concerns about Missouri government. You can call me at (573) 751-2234, write or visit me in room 331A in the State Capitol, Jefferson City, or e-mail me at [jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov).

-END-