



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 219
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

Norma Champion
30th Senate District

**For Immediate Release:
Jan. 12, 2006**

**Contact: Reggie McElhannon
(573) 751-2583**

Sen. Champion Introduces Initiative Urging Motorists to Drive Cautiously

JEFFERSON CITY—Sen. Norma Champion, R-Springfield, today introduced a concurrent resolution to help encourage motorists to be more alert and cautious on Missouri highways.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 22 directs the Missouri Department of Transportation to create individual highway signs encouraging drivers to “move over” while also detailing the name and date of highway workers, emergency workers and highway patrol officers injured or killed on Missouri highways. These signs would then be placed at the locations the injuries or deaths occurred.

“To do their jobs, highway workers, law enforcement officers and emergency services personnel must work in close proximity to traffic,” Champion said. “It only takes one careless driver to put the lives of these workers on the line. We must do as much as possible to urge motorists to do what they can to save lives.”

Champion said that not enough motorists follow Missouri law requiring them to move over one lane or slow down when approaching emergency vehicles parked on or along-side highways.

Between 1999 and 2003, there were nearly 6,000 injuries and 97 deaths that occurred in Missouri highway work-zone crashes. Three MoDOT employees were killed and 69 were injured in work zones in 2004, and in the past five years alone, seven Missouri highway patrolmen were killed alongside state highways.

“What is so sad is that these injuries and deaths were preventable,” Champion said. “Signs in place where these tragedies happened will serve as a sobering reminder of what happens when motorists do not drive with the utmost care and caution.”

Before any signs are created, the resolution further requests that MoDOT obtain permission from the immediate family members of the highway workers, emergency workers, or highway patrol officers whose names would be displayed.