

Senator Stouffer serves on these and other committees:

- Missouri Senior Rx Commission, *Vice-Chair*
- Seniors, Families and Public Health
- Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee
- Missouri Advisory Council on Pain and Symptom Management
- Health Care Stabilization Fund Feasibility Board, *Chair*



Missouri Senior Rx Commission:

As vice-chair of this twelve-member committee, Senator Stouffer is dedicated to helping seniors with the cost of prescription drugs.

For more information on the **Missouri Senior Rx Program** contact Senator Stouffer's office at 573-751-1507.

In 2007, Sen. Stouffer was awarded Legislator of the Year by the Alzheimer's Association, Missouri Association of Homes for the Aging, and the Brain Injury Association.

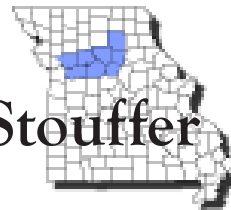


The Legislature meets annually from early January until the middle of May. The General Assembly is normally in session from Monday afternoon until Thursday afternoon.

Senator Stouffer was elected to the Senate in 2004 and represents the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and part of Clay.

Contact

Senator Stouffer



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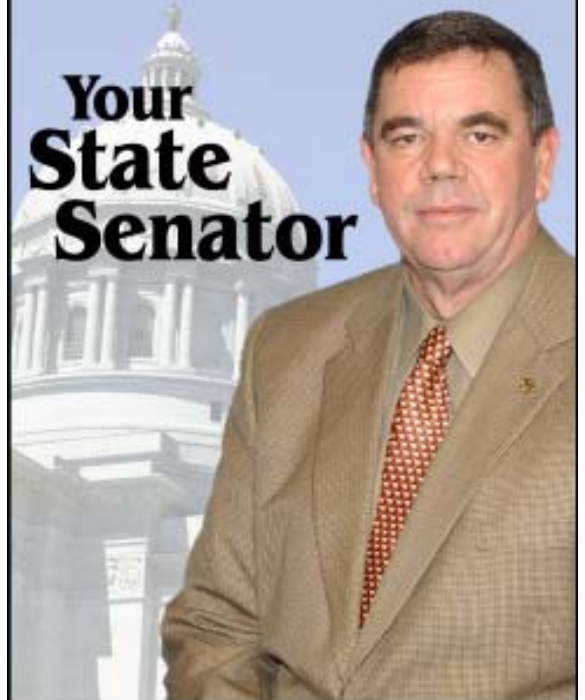
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BILL STOUFFER

*Serving the Seniors
of Rural Missouri*

*"[Senator Stouffer's bill was]
the most significant piece of
senior legislation passed in the
last decade for Missouri's
seniors."*

— AARP on Senate Bill 616

Retiring the Social Security Tax

Missouri's seniors paid into Social Security all their working lives and should not have to pay taxes on the program's benefits.

That's why lawmakers this year approved a measure gradually exempting from state income tax Social Security retirement and disability benefits and portions of retirement benefits from certain public pension plans.

The exemptions in House Bill 444 begin at 20 percent for the 2007 tax year, eventually

becoming a complete 100 percent exemption by the 2012 tax year. Seniors 62 or over and all disabled residents will be eligible for the exemptions. An income threshold of \$85,000 for an individual or \$100,000 for a couple applies.

Qualifying non-private retirement benefits include those from plans for **firemen and police officers, railroad workers, teachers, as well as veterans and certain federal employees.** These pensions will also be exempt from state taxes up to the maximum Social Security benefit (currently \$32,500) by 2012.

Missouri was one of just 15 states that still taxed Social Security. By eliminating Missouri's tax on Social Security benefits, we are helping seniors.

House Bill 444 received backing from the Association of Retired Missouri State Employees, the Missouri Retired Teachers Association, and the Advisory Council of the Missouri Kidney Program.

The measure is now on its way to the governor.

We should go out of our way to help those who have given so much to us. By taxing Social Security benefits, the government was breaking its promise to seniors.

Stouffer Champions Assisted Living

Residential care facilities allow seniors the opportunity to live with dignity and pride in an arrangement appropriate to their needs. One of my most important pieces of legislation last year, Senate Bill 616, brought clarity to the market by providing consumers with a clear knowledge of exactly what type of services assisted living facilities provide.

This law provides living options for seniors beyond their home or skilled-care facility where they can live with the dignity and respect they deserve. The safety requirements now in place help maintain better facilities for Missouri seniors.

Too often we limit options for seniors. Along with the AARP and other senior-advocacy groups, I believe that a family, a facility and a patient should have the right to decide what is appropriate for the patient's needs.

Under SB 616, assisted-living facilities cannot admit individuals who require significant care or are a danger to others, facilities must have a staff large enough and skilled enough to provide 24-hour care, and facilities must develop written plans for what to do in case of an emergency. Finally, the measure provides accountability to each resident. Facilities are required to periodically screen residents and develop individualized service plans, which will then be reviewed by residents or their legal representatives.

Lawmakers quickly approved the measure and on July 10, 2006, the governor signed the bill into law.

"The most significant piece of senior legislation passed in the last decade for Missouri's seniors." - AARP

Seniors should be able to live out their lives with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Living Out Life With Dignity and Respect

Imagine family and friends gathered around a loved one who is about to die. This person has received hospice care and knows the end is near. The patient is in the comfort of their own home and they wish to leave this world surrounded by their family and friends. Due to the unusual activity occurring at this patient's residence, a neighbor becomes concerned and dials 9-1-1.

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are required to resuscitate an individual when called to the scene of an emergency. Even though this patient was pronounced dead by a hospice nurse at the home, the EMTs continue resuscitation efforts until they reach the hospital where the patient is then pronounced clinically dead. If these events are not traumatic enough, police are called to the family home where crime tape is hung and interrogations on family members are performed.

This horrible incident was nobody's fault – emergency responders were just doing their job.

This year, legislation was drafted in response to a growing number of Missourians who wish to live out their lives at home with family members and hospice care rather than in a hospital.

House Bill 182, also known as the Outside the Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Act, requires that a copy of a do-not-resuscitate order must be included as the first page of a patient's record. The order may be carried out by a patient or a patient's representative and the patient's attending physician. HB 182 has widespread support and has been sent to the governor for his signature.