



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Bill Legalizing Midwifery, Making Health Insurance Affordable, Gains Governor's Signature

Several of Sen. Loudon's Priorities Passed in HB 818

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, is pleased Governor Blunt has signed today [House Bill 818](#), a measure that legalizes midwifery in Missouri and makes health insurance more affordable for all citizens of the state.

“Governor Blunt has shown vision encouraging this legislation as part of his agenda,” said Sen. Loudon. “HB 818 was a larger bill that contained key components of my Senate Bill 556 designed to make private health insurance more accessible and affordable. I applaud the Governor for putting healthcare accessibility and freedom first.”

“House Bill 818 is a victory for Missouri families,” said Sen. Loudon. “This new law will make Missouri the 41st state to allow the practice of professional homebirth healthcare and shed its status as the only corner of the free world that makes this a felony.”

House Bill 818 is a larger measure that also embraced Sen. Loudon's priority known as “Sammy's Law.” Currently, all pregnant women are tested to see if their babies have Down syndrome. Ninety percent of those children are aborted. The Senator contends that women are not getting important information before making that decision, resulting in what national columnist George Will calls a “search and destroy mission” that “borders on eugenics.” Doctors will now be required to tell their patients how often the testing results in a “false positive”. Women would also be told of adoption options available to them and the resources to help them

should they keep the babies themselves. The Loudons recently adopted a Down syndrome child named Samuel after waiting for 10 years.

The bill also provides tax deductions for health insurance premiums and gives enrollees more options to keep their current health care plans. The state employees' health insurance plan would also offer more enrollment options.

Sen. Loudon says the signing of HB 818 is just part of the protections for families and children he pushed and got passed this year in the state legislature. He was able to successfully increase the funding for the Sexual Predators Detectives Grant Program from just \$250,000 this year to \$1.25 million in FY 2008. In addition, [House Bill 41](#), which is awaiting the governor's signature, contains parts of his Senate Bill 5, which increases penalties for child pornography, and Senate Bill 256, which opens up possibilities for investigations into sex crimes over the Internet.

Sen. Loudon is also answering critics who claim the measure could actually encourage abortions in the state. He points out that midwives do not do surgical abortions, and according to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, no one can do partial birth abortions at home or anywhere. Sen. Loudon adds certified nurse midwives already have the legal right to prescribe RU-486, the "morning after pill," IF the collaborative agreement with their consultant physician provides for that. No certified nurse midwives in Missouri are prescribing RU-486. HB 818 legalizes certified professional midwives, who do not participate in any kind of abortions.

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