



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of December 24, 2007**

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Ringling In the New Year

JEFFERSON CITY – Writing the last legislative report of 2007 brings to mind many good remembrances of a truly historic year. Missouri lawmakers accomplished much on behalf of the citizens of Missouri during the first half of the 94th General Assembly.

The legislature enacted strong pro-life measures, gave citizens the right to protect themselves in their homes and cars, increased payments to sheltered workshops, provided eye exams to young children, and continued our commitment to investing in public education.

Lawmakers also authorized each area agency on aging to establish a volunteer program for the transportation of elderly individuals to scheduled, health care-related appointments. Participating volunteers must use their own vehicles and may be reimbursed by the agency at the same rate as state employees for any mileage allowance or reimbursement due.

In rural areas of the state, like much of the 28th Senate District, elderly residents have difficulty getting to their doctors. Some do not have cars, while others can no longer drive. Too often, elderly Missourians must rely upon friends and neighbors to drive them to the doctor. By helping those who help others to get to their local doctor's office, we can help ensure more Missourians have access to health care services in a timely fashion.

We also approved legislation which provides incentives for people to purchase long-term care insurance. The goal of the legislation is to ensure Missourians don't have to sell all or most of their assets just to qualify for health care coverage.

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As we look forward to the opportunities of 2008, let us not lose sight of our founders' vision for our future. They understood that this great Republic in which we live, the United States of America, requires an active, informed citizenry. Your thoughts and ideas matter and I encourage you to share them with me. As the next legislative session begins January 9th, rest assured we will do our best to communicate with you on pertinent legislative matters.

We trust you have had a good 2007 and will have an even better 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the 28th Senate District; representing you in the Missouri Senate is an honor and a privilege.

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