



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Koster-Justus Child-Care Assistance Act Receives Unanimous Committee Vote

JEFFERSON CITY – Senate Bills 260 and 71, sponsored by Sens. Chris Koster, R-Harrisonville, and Jolie Justus, D-Kansas City, received unanimous approval today from the Senate Seniors, Families and Public Health Committee. The bills expand the state's support of child-care subsidies for low-income parents.

"We as conservatives have a responsibility to all people," Koster said. "This vote shows that Republicans are willing to step up to the plate to assist working families."

The legislation is experiencing a groundswell of support from both parties and both chambers.

"With 57 House co-sponsors and 13 Senate co-sponsors, we recognize the support of our colleagues in making this issue one that supersedes partisan politics," Justus said.

The Koster-Justus Child Care Assistance Act increases the eligibility standards for working families from 110 percent of poverty to 130 percent of poverty. Families would continue to receive sliding-scale benefits of up to 185 percent.

"By giving these families a hand up and deferring their daycare costs, we help them to succeed in becoming fully employed," Koster said. "This is a benefit to businesses as well as their employees."

Justus added, "This is about the kids and their parents. No one should ever have to choose between taking a raise and being able to have their children in daycare. The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and local chambers have also shown great support."

The Koster-Justus Child Care Assistance Act combines SB 260 and 71. The companion House bill is HB 676. Summaries and bill text are available at www.senate.mo.gov.

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