



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Kevin Engler  
3rd Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 428  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release:**  
**February 25, 2008**

**Contact: Mike Lodewegen**  
**(573) 751-3455**

# Sen. Engler Files Bill to Keep Illegals from Receiving Public Benefits

---

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, announced he had filed a bill that would require public assistance recipients to prove citizenship before receiving any benefits. The bill would work to make sure that illegal immigrants in Missouri are not able to collect non-emergency public benefits.

“Unfortunately, Washington D.C. has yet to act on the problems caused by illegal immigration, and we cannot afford to wait,” said Sen. Engler. “This bill will prevent those who are here illegally from being able to collect benefits meant for Missourians in need.”

Current federal law states that anyone in the country illegally cannot receive any state or local benefits, including housing assistance, food assistance, or unemployment. Sen. Engler’s bill would reinforce the federal regulation and ensure that proof of citizenship is provided by anyone receiving such assistance, a stipulation the federal law leaves as a responsibility of the state. These individuals cannot be denied emergency medical care or legal assistance under federal law.

“In the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, there are a lot of honest Missourians who need these services in order to make it,” said Sen. Engler. “I want to make sure that these benefits are going to the right people, and that citizens are able to receive the help they need from the state.”

-END-