



## MISSOURI SENATE

Rob Mayer  
25th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 331  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Column for the Week  
of January 28, 2008**

**Contact: Irene Murray  
(573) 751-3859**

# More Protections Sought for the Unborn

---

JEFFERSON CITY — As an ardent believer in the protection of unborn children, I introduced Senate Bill 1058 this week that would expand Missouri's abortion law to include providing a broader range of educational materials to pregnant women considering an abortion *and* would make it a crime to coerce an abortion.

The goal of my legislation is to offer stronger protections for pregnant women and unborn children in Missouri by strengthening the area of the law that requires prior, informed and written consent before an abortion. The bill also seeks to punish those who knowingly coerce a woman to seek or obtain an abortion or who knowingly perform, induce or assist in an abortion on a woman who is victim of a coerced abortion.

As you know, I take this issue very seriously and pledge to continue my work to ensure that those who cannot speak for themselves have a voice in state government.

My legislation dealing with the alarming theft of copper is headed for consideration by the Senate Judiciary and Civil & Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. It would require scrap metal dealers to obtain identification information from vendors who sell them metals, like copper, and help curtail this serious and expensive problem. Just this week, a news article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* highlighted the copper theft problem in the metro St. Louis area. Police arrested a 24-year-old there for stealing brass and copper back-flow valves from six homes in a residential neighborhood. Homeowners reported hearing noises in their garages and called police. I encourage victims of copper thefts in my District and throughout Missouri to report these crimes to local law enforcement.

Our area continues to recover from the devastating effects of Mother Nature. I'm told federal economic injury disaster loans are available through the Small Business Administration (SBA) for some farm-related, nonfarm-related and small agricultural cooperatives in New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Butler and Stoddard

counties for financial losses suffered as a result of the drought. (Last week I mentioned similar loans available by the SBA for freeze damage in New Madrid and Pemiscot counties.) The deadline for applications for drought-related loans is Feb. 26. Interested business owners should contact the SBA's Customer Service Desk at 800-659-2955.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (573) 751-3859.

-END-

*Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.*