



MISSOURI SENATE
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**A Weekly Column for the
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2008 Legislative Session Begins

JEFFERSON CITY – This week marks the beginning of another legislative session, as lawmakers came back to the state Capitol to open the Second Regular Session of the 94th Missouri General Assembly on Wednesday, January 9. Although it's an election year, I am confident lawmakers can work together to address the important issues facing us this year.

For example, a number of Senators have filed bills to attack the problem of illegal immigration. This should be a federal issue, but many states have grown tired of waiting on our representatives in Washington, D.C. to address this issue. Some of the bills we'll debate this year would make sure individuals, the state government and private employers are not helping those who should not be in this country maintain that illegal status, while other bills would prohibit illegal aliens from receiving state or local benefits or attending public universities in Missouri. Employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants also would be held accountable for their actions.

Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, also listed property tax reform and expanding access to health care insurance as priorities for the 2008 session during his opening day address.

As Sen. Gibbons said, we can take our cases to the people on May 17th and let them judge how we have done, but from now until May 16th, we should work hard together to better the lives of the people of Missouri. I am optimistic we can accomplish this goal.

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

