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A Weekly Column for the
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Mid-Session Report for the 28th Senatorial District — Part 2

Last week I discussed several important measures that are making headway in the General Assembly. With the Legislature's approval and the governor's signature, these crucial pieces of legislation could benefit Missourians across the state.

There are several bills that have been introduced this session to address the issue of illegal immigration. While the bills approach the issue from a variety of directions, the goal is the same — controlling the costs of illegal immigrants living in Missouri. One approach is to expressly prohibit the issuing of a driver's license to any illegal alien or to any other person who cannot prove lawful presence in the state. Other proposals would penalize any employer who knowingly hires an illegal alien. Finally, other bills prohibit illegal immigrants from attending state universities and reiterate the federal policy which prohibits state or local benefits from going to illegal immigrants.

Another piece of legislation I am sponsoring this session would modify provisions relating to child abuse investigations, including requiring the [Children's Division of the Department of Social Services](#) to maintain a list of pending criminal charges and display the fact that such a list exists on the child abuse and neglect registry. [Senate Bill 1106](#) would also require the Children's Division to complete child abuse investigations within thirty days.

A proposal is moving through the Senate which would protect pregnant women from a coerced abortion and would require additional education before an abortion is performed. [Senate Bill 1058](#), sponsored by Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, would create the crime of coercion and would protect pregnant women from being threatened, stalked or intimidated into the act of an abortion. Using today's technology, such as a sonogram, pregnant women would have a clearer idea of the condition of a fetus prior to an abortion.

This year, the Legislature will consider a budget that includes an increased investment to improve math and science education, expanded access to scholarships for students in our state, help for working Missourians to purchase quality health insurance, and a tax cut for our veterans. The governor has recommended a \$22.9 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year 2009. The second half of the legislative session traditionally marks the upper chamber's budget work on the Senate floor, and I am looking forward to passing a sound budget for the hard working citizens of Missouri.

I am both honored and humbled to be entrusted with the responsibility of being your voice here in the Missouri Senate. If you have questions or comments about the legislation working its way through the General Assembly or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.

