



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 225  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

Chris Koster  
31<sup>st</sup> Senate District

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**Contact: Chastity Young**  
**(573) 751-1430**

# **Koster Measure Will Help Missourians Seeking Employment**

*Sen. Chris Koster Expands Accountability for Government Contractors*

JEFFERSON CITY — Saying that Missouri workers come first, Senator Chris Koster (D-Harrisonville) offered an amendment this week to [Senate Bill 858](#), which mandates that all contractors on governmental job sites verify the employment eligibility of all employees before work begins.

Koster's proposal is intended to crack down on the employment of illegal aliens on government job sites and encourage Missouri employers to hire Missouri residents. The bill received final approval from the Senate and now moves to the House for similar consideration.

"Senator Koster's amendment is a major step toward ensuring that Missouri jobs go to Missouri workers," said Garry Kemp, Business Manager of the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council. "It is good to finally see his colleagues in the Senate move in the right direction toward employer accountability."

The legislation prohibits employers from hiring illegal workers and requires businesses with a state contract to participate in a federal work authorization program to validate their employees' status.

Mirroring a federal government program that uses cutting-edge software to determine employment eligibility through the validity of Social Security numbers, Sen. Koster's amendment would bring efficient and useful technology to all contractors working at the state, county, and municipal level.

"Nowhere does illegal immigration affect Missourians more than in the workplace," Sen. Koster said. "We need to ensure that our hard-working families are not struggling to find a job because employers are hiring illegal workers."

Sen. Koster worked with Sen. Timothy Green (D-St. Louis) and Sen. Victor Callahan (D-Independence) on another amendment that bars employers with five or more employees from knowingly misclassifying employees. The amendment requires employers to submit federal tax forms to the Department of Revenue to verify their employees' status. It also authorizes the Attorney General to investigate any suspected misclassifications. Employers found to be knowingly misclassifying workers would be fined up to \$100,000 for repeat offenses.

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