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JEFFERSON CITY

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

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## **Koster Measure Protects Military Parents from Custody Battles**

*Senator Chris Koster Fights for Fair Custodial Disputes*

JEFFERSON CITY — Safeguarding those who serve in our military, Senator Chris Koster (D-Harrisonville) successfully offered an amendment this week to [House Bill 1678](#), which shields military parents from child custody or visitation disputes under certain circumstances. The omnibus measure covers several issues relating to military forces and their families.

Koster's proposal protects military service men and women from any changes in child visitation or custody arrangements that may result from failing to comply with existing instructions — if the reason for their non-compliance is due to active military service and out-of-state deployment.

“The people who serve our country should not be punished in custodial disputes for simply doing their job,” Koster said. “My amendment protects those who legitimately could not meet their responsibilities because they were away serving in our military and had no other choice.”

Other provisions in the legislation make it easier for children in military families to start school after moving to Missouri, as well as easing the teacher certification requirements for military spouses. Also, certain combat veterans could attend any public university or college in the state at a reduced tuition rate if they maintain at least a 2.5 GPA.

“Our military knows what it means to truly sacrifice,” Koster said. “This bill is one small way we can say ‘thank you’ and improve the quality of life for our armed forces and their families.”

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