



Senator Kevin Engler

Capitol Report**Majority Floor Leader****3rd District**

*Senator Kevin Engler proudly represents the people of
Carter, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve,
Washington counties and part of Jefferson County*

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Week of March 30, 2009

Picking Up the Pace on a Number of Issues

This week, the Senate tackled several big issues. While we again spent time discussing economic development and working to agree on a compromise on job-creation legislation, we also focused on the issues of Missouri's future energy needs and state-sponsored healthcare. Both of these major issues will affect us for generations to come.

Healthcare is an issue we have been working on for several years. [Senate Bill 306](#), which received first-round approval this week, establishes the Show-Me Health Coverage Plan, which would provide health care coverage through the private insurance market to low-income, working individuals. The goal of this legislation is to make sure that low-income families, especially children, are able to receive necessary care. We also want to ensure that families have access to preventive care instead of heading to the ER and costing the state hundreds of additional dollars in reactive treatments.

Also, this week my office has received a number of phone calls about [Senate Bill 228](#) which is being proposed to build a new nuclear plant. We are currently working to make sure people's pocketbooks are protected from rate increases during the construction of the plant. Unfortunately, the group spending hundreds of thousands of dollars running deceptive ads have not worked with us to make sure ratepayers are protected. Ultimately, an energy crisis is looming and we need to be working together on a solution to secure our energy future.

We also gave initial approval to an important measure that will expand Missouri's sex

offender list. [Senate Joint Resolution 3](#) would give voters the power to uphold the original intent of Megan's Law, which went into effect in 1995, requiring that all convicted sex offenders register with local sheriff's departments. Due to language in the Missouri Constitution, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that it is unconstitutional to force sex offenders to register if they were convicted before the enactment of Megan's Law in 1995. This leaves a large number of sexual offenders off of the state registry. This resolution would allow Megan's Law to be applied retrospectively.

Additionally, I would like to remind everyone about the upcoming municipal elections. I encourage everyone to get out to the polls to vote on municipal offices, school boards, and any bond or tax issues that are out there. One important issue on the ballot in St. Francois Co. is the renewal of the road tax. It has been my policy during my time in Jefferson City to stay out of local issues. However, I do want to compliment the new county commission on some of the reforms they are working on, it is my belief that their personnel, long term planning, and inventory control decisions are going to take the county in the right direction.

If you are planning a trip to Jefferson City in the near future, do not hesitate to contact my office. You may reach me at 573-751-3455, send your e-mails to kevin.engler@senate.mo.gov or write to me at the Missouri Senate, State Capitol, Room 331, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

If you know anyone who would like to receive these updates electronically, please [send me](#) an email.

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