



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Jane Cunningham Supports Fix to Proposed Education Bill to Answer Homeschool Community's Concerns

*Senator Agrees with Proposed Solution Protecting Homeschoolers from Proposal
Requiring Highschoolers Meet Credit Quota Before They Can Quit School*

House Proposal Created Unintended Consequence for Homeschooled Children

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, stood with several Missouri lawmakers on the steps of the State Capitol yesterday along with hundreds of homeschooled children and parents from around the state in support of fixing a proposal in [Senate Bill 291](#) — an education reform bill currently under debate in the Missouri House — that would have an unintended adverse affect on the homeschooling community.

The bill — referred to the House Rules Committee Wednesday (5/13), approved by the House and Senate yesterday (5/14) and now on its way to the Governor — contains a House Committee Substitute that would require would-be high school dropouts to earn 16 credits through a flexible schedule program before they would be able to quit school. As the bill is currently written, the measure would include students who are homeschooled. Representative Rodney Schad, R-Versailles offered an amendment that excluded homeschoolers from the provision.

Senator Cunningham has been working closely with legislators in the House and Senate to ensure a solution was drafted to address the issue and has offered language for the correcting amendment.

“I am pleased that my colleagues and I were able to quickly draft legislation to answer an unintended consequence of this proposal so that we can protect the rights of homeschoolers and their families,” Sen. Cunningham said. “It was a tremendous boost to our efforts to have over 2000 grateful parents and children walking the Capitol halls in support of our efforts.”

Senate Bill 291 is a wide-ranging education reform bill. Among the provisions is a proposal by Sen. Cunningham that offers performance-based pay to St. Louis school teachers who are willing to give up tenure and allow Bankers and Financial expert's certification to teach the personal financial management course required for high school graduation.

For further information about Senator Jane Cunningham and her legislation, you may visit her Senate website at www.senate.mo.gov/cunningham or contact her Chief of Staff, Lucy LePage, at (573) 751-1186.

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