

Column For Week of February 2, 2009

Senator  
**Eric Schmitt**

Weekly Column

15th District



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## Legislation to Address Major Issues

This week, I sponsored legislation to bolster the economic development of small businesses throughout Missouri. I also took the opportunity to co-sponsor a bill addressing healthcare reform.

If we want to effectively address the current economic crisis, we must remember that the foundation of Missouri's economy relies on small businesses. This is why I filed [Senate Bill 279](#), which would establish the Small Business and Entrepreneurial Growth Act. The legislation provides tax incentives for small business expansion and will incentivize the growth of real jobs on Main Street, where 80 percent of new jobs are created.

To fulfill my promise to address health care reform in Missouri, I signed on as a co-sponsor of [Senate Bill 306](#). The legislation would establish the Show-Me Health Coverage plan to provide health care coverage to low-income, working individuals in the state through private insurance providers. The plan would focus on providing preventative care, rather than more expensive reactive treatments—often times in emergency rooms across the state. Premiums would be paid on a sliding scale, and could be supplemented by the individual, the employer, the state, or any other charitable contributor.

Legislation will continue to be introduced in the Senate until March 1<sup>st</sup>. I will continue to keep you posted on the bills being introduced and debated as well as any upcoming events here at the Capitol.

**[Contact Me](#)**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me using the information below. If you would like to begin receiving this column regularly, click on the subscribe link on the bottom of the page.

Thank you,  
Senator Eric Schmitt

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