

A banner for Senator Eric Schmitt. On the left, the text "Senator Eric Schmitt" is written in a serif font. Behind the text is a background image of the Missouri State Capitol building and an American flag. On the right side of the banner is a circular seal of the Missouri Senate, featuring two bears flanking a central shield with a sun, moon, and stars, and the motto "SALUS POPULI SUPREMO LEGIS LAUS". To the right of the seal is a portrait of Senator Eric Schmitt, a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie.

Senator Eric Schmitt

Weekly Column

15th District

[Website](#) | [Email Me](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

Legislation Addressing Crime in Our State

In the Legislature, a common way of addressing multiple pieces of legislation on related issues is to group them together into one piece of legislation. This is the purpose of omnibus legislation—a bill that packages together several measures into one. This is the case with [Senate Bill 261](#), a comprehensive package of crime-related measures we are debating meant to make Missouri safer and modify laws already on the books. There are many provisions in this legislation, and I wanted to review a couple of them for you this week.

One provision of the bill addresses a current law that makes it a class A felony in Missouri to sell drugs within a certain distance of a school or park. Recently, courts have interpreted this law to require prosecutors to prove that the drug dealer intended to sell drugs in the area near a school or park. Senate Bill 261 clarifies that actually committing the criminal act is proof enough of intent. The legislation also applies to certain sexual offenses, such as sex offenders who loiter near schools.

Another measure in SB 261 was crafted to address an issue that arose during a recent court case involving domestic assault. Missouri has laws meant to protect a victim's right to privacy. However, in one particular case, the defendant used an existing statute in an effort to avoid embarrassment and keep his name private. He argued that if his name was revealed, it would also reveal the name of the victim—his wife—because she had the same last name. Thus, a provision in SB 261 would give judges in certain cases discretion to prevent these types of situations and to protect lives.

Also this week, a hearing was held on [Senate Concurrent Resolution 14](#), legislation I

sponsored to form a Blue Ribbon Panel on Job Retention and Economic Growth. This bicameral, bipartisan committee would focus on how to create an attractive environment in our state for businesses to locate and expand.

On another note, I really enjoyed a visit this week from the MIZZOU Tiger football team. They are a hard-working group of student-athletes, and I enjoyed meeting them. I also enjoyed a visit from fourth graders from North Glendale Elementary School in the Kirkwood School District, where my son will soon be attending. They were an enthusiastic group, and I hope they enjoyed learning about the legislative process.

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

Contact Information

Capitol Office State Capitol Building Room 334 Jefferson City, MO 65101	Website: http://www.senate.mo.gov/schmitt	Phone Number: 573.751.2853
--	--	--------------------------------------

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)