

Senator
Eric Schmitt

Weekly Column15th District



Week of May 11, 2009

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A Successful Session


Today marks the final day of the legislative session, and the end of my first regular session in the Missouri Senate. I have truly enjoyed the experience and am looking forward to spending the interim in the district talking to you about some of the bills we passed into law.

I was impressed this year by the attitude of bipartisanship in the Senate as Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass legislation that we all agree will improve our state. As pieces of legislation made the way through the legislative process, it often required careful consideration and compromise from Senate members as they worked to craft the best way to address different issues.

I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with constituent groups from throughout the district. The residents who take the time to write, call, and visit are truly appreciated. I would not be able to efficiently represent you without the important feedback I receive from informed and interested constituents.

Cooperation from fellow members and the feedback of constituents contributed to a successful 2009 legislative

Visitors to
the Capitol



Westchester Elementary (Kirkwood)
on May 13.

session. At this writing, there is still plenty of work that could be accomplished, and I will further expand on the bills we passed next week. Some of the legislation we recently completed or continue to work on in these final hours includes:

- Senate Bill 62, the omnibus crime bill. The legislation includes provisions increasing protections against threatening dogs, creates the crime of using or manufacturing fraudulent insurance ID cards, and specifies that a person who fails to register as a sexual offender is guilty of a Class C felony.
- Senate Bill 291, a comprehensive education bill. Along with a measure I drafted creating a parents bill of rights for those attending an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meeting, the bill prohibits the use of seclusion rooms in schools, creates the volunteer and parents incentive program, makes sure revenues from the passage of Proposition A will go to public schools in the state, and sets minimum physical education requirements for elementary schools.

When the final gavel falls at 6 p.m. today, legislation not agreed to by both bodies will not have another chance to pass until next year. During the interim months, I will have the opportunity to further review and develop the priorities that matter to you and will be able to continue to make progress next session. I look forward to sharing these ideas with you in the coming months.



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