



**Senator Luann
Ridgeway**
17th Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 221
Jefferson City, MO 65101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sen. Luann Ridgeway Introduces Bill to Allow Area Restaurant to Keep Name

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Luann Ridgeway (R-Smithville) yesterday (2/18) introduced a bill that would allow Smithville restaurant, “Justus Drugstore *a restaurant*,” to keep its name.

The need for this legislation was demonstrated after the Missouri Pharmacy Board informed the owners last year that it was going to issue an order requiring the restaurant to either shut-down or change its name. The pharmacy board claimed that the restaurant was in violation of a 1950s law that prohibits the use of the word “drugstore” in a non-pharmacy business name.

Senate Bill 394 allows businesses to use terms such as “drugstore” or “apothecary” in their business name, when a reasonable person would not consider the business to be a pharmacy. As long as the business is not selling medicine, a person can use a historical or family name in reference to his or her business without violating the pharmacy laws, if Sen. Ridgeway’s bill passes.

“This situation is a case of unrestrained bureaucracy at work,” Sen. Ridgeway said. “As ludicrous as it sounds, this outdated law could have actually caused this nationally acclaimed local restaurant’s business to suffer. We are supposed to be bolstering Missouri’s small businesses, not making the mere act of existing more difficult for them.”

The owners, Jonathan Justus and his wife, Camille Eklof, chose the name to pay homage to Justus’ family, who owned a pharmacy in Smithville in the same building where the restaurant is currently located.

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Contact: Mike Morris
(573) 751-2547