

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2009

## Statement: Sen. Schaefer on Funding the Ellis Fischel Center

JEFFERSON CITY – "The voice of the people has been heard. Due to the courageous involvement of the citizens of Boone County and cancer patients across the state, a veto of state funding for the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center has been successfully averted.

Unfortunately, this only marks round one for the issue. We now call upon the governor to provide a timeline for when the funds will be released.

House Bill 22 is an omnibus capital improvements bill that allocated more than \$31 million for the planning, design, renovation and construction of the center, which is part of the University of Missouri system.

The Ellis Fischel Cancer Center is the only hospital in the state that is devoted solely to the research and treatment of cancer. The building project is already in progress and the improvements would pave the way for newer technologies and better care for cancer patients.

Funding for the Ellis Fischel Center was part of the balanced budget package passed this year by the General Assembly."