

DISTRICT OFFICE
PO Box 62
St. Peters, MO 63376
Telephone (636) 294-2526



CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol, Room 433
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Telephone (573) 751-1141
Fax (573) 522-3383
tom.dempsey@senate.mo.gov

MISSOURI SENATE
Majority Caucus Whip
Tom Dempsey
District 23

Capitol Report — February 5, 2009

Committee assignments having been made, the hearing process is well underway. We are now listening to testimony, and bills will soon be voted out of Committee and reported to the full Senate for consideration.

This session I have the privilege of serving on five Senate committees. New for me is the Senate Appropriations Committee, which meets daily. Currently, directors for the various departments in state government are presenting their budget priorities for the next fiscal year. In order to balance his budget, the Governor has included \$800 million in federal stimulus payment.

I am also the vice-chair of the Senate Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee, which — as the name implies — considers bills that will influence the direction of Missouri's economy. Passing an economic development bill to spur investment is a top priority for Governor Nixon and the Legislature.

My committee assignments also include the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee; Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families Committee; and the Senate Select Committee on Oversight of Federal Stimulus.

I am working to increase access to affordable healthcare, improve the quality of that service, and reduce costs to individuals and businesses paying their own way. In pursuit of these goals, I filed legislation this week (SB 306) to reduce the number of uninsured by more efficiently utilizing existing state and federal funds and stressing wellness, prevention and personal responsibility.

I presented another of my bills this week in the Health Committee. This bill (SB 147) would establish the Missouri Healthy Workplace Recognition Program. Businesses that promote health, wellness and prevention for their employees could receive state recognition for their efforts. Companies that already offer workplace wellness programs, incentives for healthier lifestyles and opportunities for active community involvement and exercise see better productivity and fewer employee sick days. This program would not cost the state any additional money and would help boost the health and productivity of Missouri's workforce.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on these or any issues of concern to you. I appreciate and welcome your comments.

Committees:

Appropriations • Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment
Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families
Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government, Vice-Chair
Joint Committee on MO Health Net