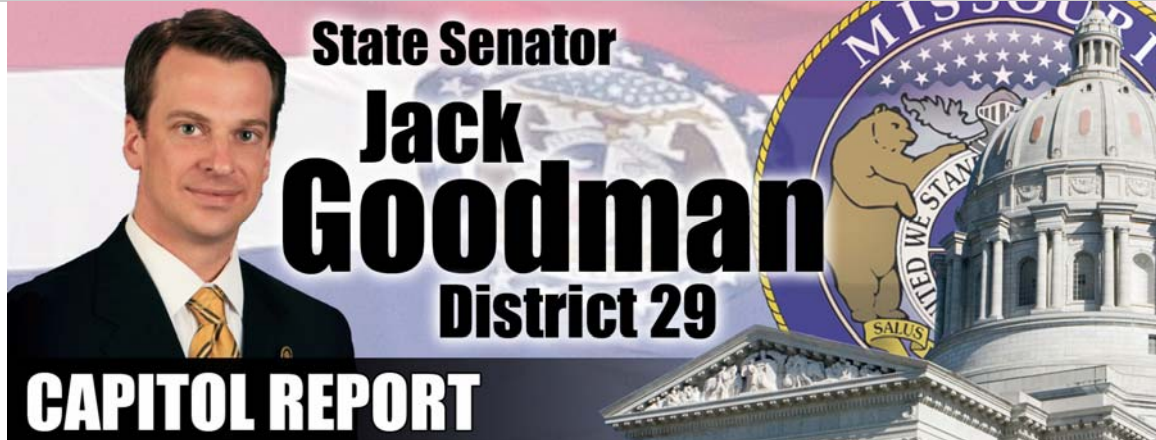


Week of April 6, 2009



Senator Jack Goodman – Serving Barry, Lawrence, McDonald, Ozark, Stone and Taney Counties

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

## [Preserving Family Values in Missouri](#)

As Missourians, holding onto our strong family values is very important to us. We place a high price on working hard, caring for our families and being good neighbors. We also try our best to protect our children from the people, places and things that might put them in danger or compromise the standards that we strive to teach them.

I am sponsoring a bill this session that helps preserve those family values. In recent years, I have noticed that an alarming number of smut shops have opened their doors along the major highways in our area and across the state. While federal caselaw does not allow the state to adopt legislation banning these establishments, we can draft laws that would curb their dangerous effects, which include increased crime, moral disintegration and diminished property values. My bill, [Senate Bill 223](#), would regulate all sexually oriented businesses by restricting the time, place and manner in which they can operate.

Senate Bill 223 returned to the floor this week for further debate. I am hopeful to receive a favorable vote in the near future.

The need for this bill is illustrated by the unsavory activities that often take place in these types of establishments and the dangerous element they attract to our communities. For one, sexual predators are nearly always consumers of hard-core pornography. This industry appeals to sexual deviants, and with the high number of smut shops located within Missouri borders, we are essentially inviting them into our cities and towns.

Another cause for concern is that these establishments seem to draw in out-of-state travelers who are passing through. Citizens' groups and other volunteers have spent considerable time monitoring the license plates in the parking lots and their findings

seem to indicate that most of the customers are not from Missouri. We do not want our state to be known as a destination for those interested in visiting smut shops while on their travels.

Senate Bill 223 places restrictions on where sexually oriented businesses can be located. Under the legislation, no one would be allowed to establish a sexually oriented business within 1,000 feet of a school, house of worship, state-licensed day care, public library, public park, residence or other sexually oriented business.

Not only does my bill regulate the location of these businesses, but it also regulates what may happen inside. Semi-nude employees, for example, would be required by law to remain on a stage at least six feet away from patrons (fully nude activity would be prohibited). They would also be unable to touch a patron or a patron's clothing. Additionally, the legislation regulates the showing of pornographic films in a sexually oriented business and requires these businesses to close their doors between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. The use, sale and consumption of alcohol on the premises of these businesses are also prohibited.

Missouri is becoming littered with seedy businesses, in cities big and small and on otherwise desolate strips of highway. Their prevalence makes it difficult, as parents, to protect our children from being subjected to things we do not want them to see. Worse still, their existence can draw dangerous individuals to our communities. To protect this state, which is such a great place to live and visit, we must take decisive action that will help diminish the risks these businesses invite.

As always, I welcome your ideas, questions and concerns about Missouri government. You may contact me at the Capitol as follows: (573) 751-2234, [jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov) or by writing to Senator Jack Goodman, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331-A, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

-END-

#### Contact Information

<b>Capitol Office</b> State Capitol Building Room 331-A Jefferson City, MO 65101	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.senate.mo.gov/goodman">http://www.senate.mo.gov/goodman</a>	<b>Phone Number:</b> 573.751.2234 (Capitol) 417.466.3731 (District)
		<b>Fax:</b> 573.526.9808