

January 15, 2009



Senator David Pearce – Serving Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon Counties

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‘Hello’ From Your New State Senator

Last week marked the beginning of the 2009 legislative session, and with it, the beginning of my first term as your state senator. During a ceremony held shortly after the General Assembly convened at noon on January 7th, I was sworn in as a member of the Missouri Senate after being elected by the people of the 31st District in November.

Though I am familiar with the workings of the Legislature after serving in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2002 to 2008, the way business is conducted in each chamber is very different. In December, my fellow freshmen senators and I took part in a mock session that helped us understand the procedures we will be expected to know as Senate members. Now we are ready to put our new knowledge to good use, creating meaningful legislation that will better the lives of all Missourians.

We have a lot of work to do this year. I know 2008 was tough for many Missouri families, but with a new year comes the opportunity for a new beginning. This is our chance to refocus our priorities while working together to positively impact Missouri. In 2009, we can make this state an even better place to live and raise a family.

Much of the talk this session will revolve around the state budget and economic growth. At the top of my agenda this year is presenting legislation that will help stimulate the state economy through the creation of high-quality jobs that can support a family. I have already filed a bill that would expand the Quality Jobs Act, a program that provides incentives to businesses that create high-paying jobs for Missourians.

Another top priority of mine is the safety of Missouri families. Many people are not

aware of the existence of private jails in the state of Missouri, and that these facilities are not required to adopt the same safety standards as public jails—this includes not being obligated to report an escaped prisoner. Legislation that I have filed would require private jails to implement safety regulations similar to public jails, protecting Missouri families from potential harm.

Another top priority for me is guarding your personal privacy. Legislation I have filed expands the Missouri No-Call list by including cell phone and fax numbers and also banning certain types of automated calls to those whose names are on the list. With so many people using their cell phones as their primary phone line, there is no reason why these numbers shouldn't be included on the list. Plus, automated calls that try to influence your vote are often a nuisance and an unwelcome intrusion into your home.

In the coming months and years, I look forward to working with and learning from my new colleagues in the Missouri Senate. As the legislative session gets underway, I will continue to keep you informed about the issues that affect you and your family. In future Capitol Reports I will discuss the legislation I have filed in greater depth, but until then, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381. We are here to serve you.

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