

Week of October 5, 2009



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Senate Office Provides Many Constituent Services

While lawmakers primarily serve their constituents by representing their interests in the Legislature and being their voice in the process of creating new laws, we offer a wide-range of other services to the residents in our districts that aren't quite as well-known.

First, my staff at the Capitol is here to provide any additional information you require on legislation making its way through the General Assembly. Even if you have a question on a bill sponsored by another lawmaker, we are happy to find the information you need. We welcome your concerns or opinions on any legislation proposed by lawmakers as well as your ideas for new legislation that will help improve our state.

My office also offers courtesy resolutions to constituents. A courtesy resolution is a non-controversial document of congratulations that recognizes citizens on important occasions such as a milestone wedding anniversary, 100th birthday, retirement or other outstanding achievement. The General Assembly presents hundreds of courtesy resolutions to Missourians each year.

Letters of support also are available from my office. Constituents often will ask for a letter of support for an organization, special cause or project. Many times these types of letters are required for grant applications or other funding opportunities. While I am happy to consider providing a letter of support for residents of the 31st Senatorial District, there are a few things that are important:

- Provide at least 10 working days' advance notice before the letter is needed.
- Give a deadline for the letter.
- Tell where the letter is going. Is the letter of support to be returned to you to be included with your application, or is it to be mailed directly to an agency?
- Do you need the letter of support sent by e-mail attachment, fax or mail? Please

be sure to include applicable addresses, fax number, etc.

- Provide any supporting documentation for your cause, i.e. city council approval of project.
- Detail specifically the purpose for which the application is being made.
- Also, a sample letter that includes the purpose or need for the application always is welcome.

For those interested in legislative matters specific to the 31st District, my Senate page at www.senate.mo.gov/pearce offers detailed information. From here, you can e-mail me directly. You can also sign up for my e-mail updates, request a courtesy resolution, browse through past Capitol Reports and news releases, and listen to audio and view video clips on my new multimedia page. While on my Senate page, you can learn a little about me by reading my biography, check out a map of the 31st District, learn more about the committees on which I serve, and apply for an internship in my office.

I am thrilled to receive invitations from your organizations to attend one of your events, or be a keynote speaker. Of the many invitations I receive annually, I have found it helpful to receive written details for consideration to include the date, time and place. Also, if a speech is requested, a topic and time allocation would be appreciated.

The services mentioned above are not a definitive list of what my office is able to provide my constituents. Even if you are unsure if we can help, it never hurts to ask. A written account of your issue speeds up the process. Be sure to include identifying information, such as a case number and caseworker's contact. Our goal is to help you cut through the bureaucratic red tape and ensure that you are always greeted by a member of my staff who is willing to help you find the answers you need.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns. Also, we welcome your comments and suggestions. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

Contact Information

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