

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

## MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Senate Commits to Creating Long-term Vision** ***2020 Committees Charged with Creating Strategic Improvement Plans***

JEFFERSON CITY –Following through on his challenge to lawmakers to create long-term plans for improving job creation, providing more health coverage, and making sure more students obtain an education past high school, Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, today introduced resolutions that would create three new committees dedicated to developing long-term plans and strategies in these areas.

Known as the “2020” committees, the members would be charged with defining where we want Missouri to be in the areas of job creation, healthcare, and an educated workforce in the year 2020.

“Missouri government is a \$23 billion operation without a long-term vision or strategic plan,” said Shields. “I believe we must first decide where we want to be in ten years, and then determine how best to get there. And I couldn’t think of any group of people better to serve as our new board of directors than the first-term senators I will assign to these committees who can move us from a short-sighted, reactionary organization to one with vision and purpose.”

Shields said he will name only senators serving in their first term to the committees, as they have a more vested interest in their success long-term.

The three committees include: the Missouri Senate Job Creation 2020 Committee, the Missouri Senate Healthy Missourians 2020 Committee, and the Missouri Senate Educated Workforce 2020 Committee.

Shields laid out the three issues as where to begin in creating an even better Missouri for the people of the state, stating that Missouri lacks in comparison to the nation in these areas. Shields cited Missouri ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in median family income. In higher education, the state ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the number of 25-34 year olds with a degree past high school. In health status, Missouri ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

“In all these rankings, Missouri is close to the middle of the pack of our nation’s states. The question for us is, do we have to stay there? I say no,” said Shields. “The truth is we can be a top ten state in these areas, and that should be the vision upon which we build our strategic plans.”

The committees will serve through December 31, 2010. For a full listing of Senate committees and the senators serving on each, visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

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