

## Column For Week of: March 15, 2010

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## "Senator Spring Break" Means Coming Home to Work for You

This week marks the Legislature's return to Jefferson City from its annual spring break. While the beach and sunshine is what comes to mind for most people, my responsibilities as your senator only allowed for Missouri sunshine, and I was fortunate that there was a little of it during this time off.

The weekend started off well spending time with my children and attending a friend's birthday party. Working in Jefferson City keeps me away from some of the important moments in my family and friends' lives, but they are never far from my mind. Any chance I get to spend my free time with them is a true treasure.

By March 9, I was meeting with a very large crowd at the O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce. O'Fallon is consistently ranked as one of the top cities in the entire country to raise a family, and it's easy to see why by the turnout from these great business leaders.

The national healthcare issue was on the agenda for March 10. Even though the President of the United States brought out a large crowd in St. Louis, there was a big crowd just across the street protesting the president's federal takeover of health care. I'm proud to say I joined the thousands at the St. Charles Convention Center, my colleagues in state and federal government, and millions of Missourians that reject the federal infringement in our lives.

By Friday, March 12, I was meeting with a group of senior citizens to discuss strategies to cope with the prior day's announcement that the governor was cutting \$1.1 million from the Meals on Wheels program. Since then, the governor has admitted the budget he submitted is not balanced, and by not proposing any solutions, he's leaving it to the Legislature to do the "dirty work" and get our state back on track. You can rest assured that I will do everything in my power to keep our state's priorities straight and do as little harm as possible to our schools and our seniors. If you visit my senate website, you'll find "Control, Alt, Delete," a place for constituents to give suggestions on ways to reform and restructure government for greater accountability to you, the taxpayers.

To conclude my week, I participated in the Cottleville St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13, and it's always a pleasure to meet and greet so many citizens from the district. My daughter, Noelle, really got a kick out of driving her little jeep in the parade and decorating it to match the day's festivities. It's a memory I'll never forget.

But now it's time to get back to work.

If you have any questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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Contact Information	
State Capitol 866.2 Room 426	<b>e Number:</b> 271.2844 <b>Fax:</b> 526.4766