

DISTRICT OFFICE
PO Box 62
St. Peters, MO 63376
Telephone (636) 294-2526



CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol, Room 433
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Telephone (573) 751-1141
Fax (573) 522-3383
tom.dempsey@senate.mo.gov

MISSOURI SENATE
Majority Caucus Whip
Tom Dempsey
District 23

Capitol Report – February 18, 2010

I had the opportunity this week to meet with some of my constituents when they visited the Capitol for the Alzheimer's Association's annual Memory Day. They shared their personal stories with me of the challenges they or their loved ones face with Alzheimer's. Currently, 5.3 million Americans have the disease, including 110,000 Missourians. That number is projected to increase to 14 million Americans by mid century.

Last year, the General Assembly passed a measure (HB 272) to address the challenges of Alzheimer's in our state by creating the Alzheimer's Disease State Plan Task Force. The new task force is charged with examining existing services and resources and gathering public input on issues and concerns related to Alzheimer's and related dementias. The group will make recommendations based upon their findings to the General Assembly and the governor later this year.

Several free community forums are scheduled across the state in the coming weeks to aid the task force in developing the state's plan. Those affected by Alzheimer's disease are invited to attend to share their suggestions and concerns about Alzheimer's care and support in Missouri. Forums are scheduled in the following locations:

Greater St. Louis

March 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, 975 N. Warson Road, St. Louis. Register by calling (314) 801-0403.

Southwest Missouri

March 31, 6 to 8 p.m.

Trustee Science Center, Reed Auditorium, Drury University, Springfield. Register by calling (417) 886-2199.

Greater Kansas City

April 8, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, 3700 Blue Parkway, Kansas City. Register by calling (913) 831-3888.

Southeast Missouri

April 5, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Osage Community Center, 1625 North Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau. Register by calling (800) 272-3900.

Public input is critically important to developing the Alzheimer's Disease State Plan. I encourage you to share information about the upcoming forums with friends, family and others who can assist our state in its efforts to become a leader in fighting for those with Alzheimer's disease.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on this or any other issue of concern to you. I appreciate and welcome your comments.