

STATE SENATOR

JACK
GOODMAN

DISTRICT 29

FAMILY MATTERS

EMPOWERING MOTHERS • PROTECTING FAMILIES • PRESERVING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

PROTECTING MISSOURI FAMILIES FROM THE DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF THE SMUT INDUSTRY

Strong family values are integral to the fabric of Missouri's communities. I hope to protect these values for future generations by shielding families from dangerous places and behaviors that undermine the standards Missourians hold high. Unfortunately, southwest Missouri communities are seeing an increase in these dangerous places and behaviors with the growing presence of smut shops.

For the past two sessions, I have fought hard for legislation to tightly regulate the operation of smut shops and limit their negative effects in our communities. This session, my SB 617 was combined with SB 586. Both of these bills passed, placing stronger regulations on sexually oriented businesses in Missouri. Some of the provisions in the legislation include:

- Prohibiting establishment of a sexually oriented business within 1,000 feet of a pre-existing school, house of worship, state-licensed day care, public library, public park, residence or other sexually oriented business.
- Prohibiting a person who has been convicted of or imprisoned for certain crimes within the last eight years from establishing an adult business.
- Prohibiting totally nude activity and restricting semi-nude activity.
- Restricting hours of operation.
- Prohibiting the use, sale or consumption of alcohol in adult businesses.



The proliferation of adult businesses throughout southwest Missouri has been very disturbing. Smut shops used to be isolated to certain districts and cities. However, in recent years, their presence has extended to all types of communities and made it increasingly difficult to protect children from dangerous influences and pressures. The prevalence of these businesses along the major transportation arteries in all areas of the state, including our 29th District, makes it difficult for parents to prevent their children from being subjected to things they do not want them to see.

Worse yet, the negative secondary effects of smut shops in Missouri communities are well-documented. Their existence invites dangerous individuals with a proclivity for illegal and dangerous behavior into our communities. Additionally, property values decline in the neighborhoods where sexually oriented businesses are present.

I helped craft and pass a constitutional, well-measured and responsible bill that will regulate sexually oriented businesses to restrict their dangerous effects within the bounds of the U.S. Constitution.

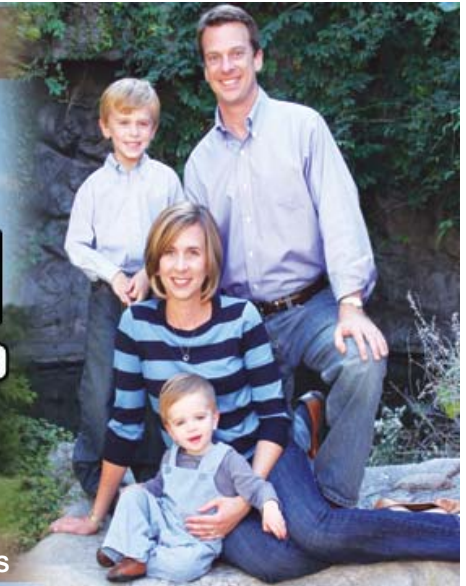
EMPOWERING MOTHERS AGAINST ABUSE

This session, I handled HB 2081 in the Senate, a bill that empowers pregnant women to use deadly force to protect their unborn children from attack. The bill stems from the case of a pregnant woman in Michigan who was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to prison after using deadly force to defend her unborn baby from her boyfriend who was repeatedly punching her in the abdomen. House Bill 2081 is a proactive step to ensure that Missouri mothers have an undeniable, clearly stated legal right to protect themselves and their babies from violence.

The governor recently signed House Bill 2081 and it will be enacted into law on Aug. 28, 2010.

NO TAXPAYER DOLLARS FOR ABORTION

As the U.S. Congress passed its bill to take over health care, there was legitimate concern that taxpayer dollars would fund abortions through health insurance exchanges. Currently in Missouri, health insurance policies cannot cover elective abortions, except through optional riders. Senate Bill 793, passed by the Missouri General Assembly, extends this prohibition to policies offered through health insurance exchanges, such as those provided for in the federal health care bill. In addition, no health insurance exchange operating within Missouri may cover elective abortions through optional riders. The Missouri General Assembly must protect citizens and the unborn from intrusive mandates coming out of Washington, D.C., especially those that threaten life.



PRESERVING GUN RIGHTS IN MISSOURI

The right to keep and bear arms is one of the most important fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, because it guarantees that people have the right to protect themselves, their property and their families. Before coming to the Senate, I worked hard in the House to help secure the right to carry concealed firearms for law-abiding Missourians. In the Missouri Senate, I continue fighting to preserve the Second Amendment rights of Missourians against those who seek to take away this precious constitutional freedom.

Missourians scored a victory for our Second Amendment rights this session when the General Assembly passed House Bill 1692. I sponsored and passed the original Castle Doctrine legislation in 2007, which gave Missourians the right to use all necessary lethal force to protect themselves and their families against an intruder that breaks into their home. We further extended these protections in HB 1692. Unlawfully entering someone's home or property is a threatening act of aggression that should trigger the right to use full self defense. This bill further ensures that our laws protect the innocent, not the criminal. I voted for HB 1692 on the Senate floor and worked hard to move the bill through my General Laws Committee quickly.

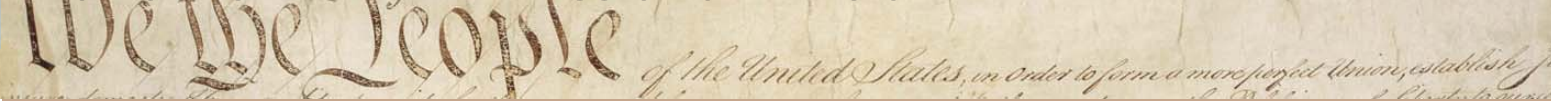
This session the Legislature also worked on HB 1802, which would have removed some of the regulations regarding the purchase of shotguns and rifles by Missouri residents, reduced



the minimum age requirement for obtaining a concealed carry endorsement from 23 to 21, and made it an "unlawful use of a weapon" to possess a firearm while also being in possession of certain controlled substances that are sufficient for a felony violation. HB 1802 was also referred to my General Laws Committee and I quickly brought it to a vote and sent it to the Senate floor for approval. However, I am disappointed that session came to a close before this bill could pass.

I have worked hard during my time as a public servant to protect the right to keep and bear arms guaranteed to us by both the Federal and State Constitutions. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak for the people of the 29th District and work for laws that reflect our shared values.

PROTECTING THE FREE EXPRESSION OF RELIGION



This session, the Missouri General Assembly considered legislation designed to protect one of the most basic rights guaranteed by the Missouri and U.S. Constitutions—the right to freely express one's religion. As chairman of the Senate General Laws Committee, I worked to quickly pass both Senate Joint Resolution 31 and its House equivalent, House Joint Resolution 62, out of my committee.

However, as soon as these resolutions reached the Senate floor, a few members stalled the legislation by filibuster. I, along with many of my colleagues, called for the legislation to be given a straightforward, up or down vote so the issue could be put to a vote of the people.

Too often, the fear of litigation prevents our citizens and school children from freely expressing their religious beliefs. These constitutional amendments would have allowed Missouri voters to reaffirm their right to free expression of religion.

While the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution explicitly states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." court decisions have misinterpreted this constitutional protection and slowly eroded the right to freely express our religious beliefs in public places or official settings.

The United States Supreme Court has cited the separation of church and state theory more than 25 times in rendering its decisions. From the outcry against school Christmas plays to the attempt at banishing any references to God in public places, it is becoming increasingly clear that our constitutional right to free expression of religion is under attack. I am convinced our Founding Fathers did not intend to ban prayer in public places or restrict our students' free expression of religion when they crafted the First Amendment. In Missouri, we must take a stand against those who seek to distort the true purpose of the First Amendment.

Provisions contained in SJR 31 and HJR 62 would have protected the right to pray in public; prohibited the establishment of any official state religion; allowed students to engage in private and voluntary prayer; and provided that students may express their religious beliefs in school assignments without discrimination based on any religious content of their school work.

It is important to preserve religious freedom for every person, including the constitutionally specified freedoms to exercise and express religious beliefs. I am disappointed that a small group of legislators killed this bill and deprived the people of Missouri the opportunity to vote on it.

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