

Week of December 6, 2010



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## Job Creation Remains Main Focus for 2011 Legislative Session

After last week's start of prefiling bills and as lawmakers prepare to converge on the Capitol for the start of the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in just a few short weeks, members of the Senate Majority Caucus recently gathered to start mapping out a plan in order to focus our efforts.

Among the top priorities is job creation. We need strong, steady jobs to stabilize the economy and provide a better future for Missouri. We are focusing on several ways to achieve this goal. First, we cap the maximum amount of franchise tax liability. And second, we improve employers' ability to hire and retain quality workers by ending lawsuit abuses.

More specifically, [Senate Bill 18](#) proposes to limit double taxation on Missouri's employers so they can invest in hiring new employees. This process causes many corporations and larger businesses to pass on business opportunities in Missouri. If this action can be capped, we will have the opportunity to bring more jobs into the state, which in turn will help local economies.

Another measure, [Senate Bill 8](#) takes a step toward minimizing personal lawsuits in the business forum. Missouri's employers spend excess money each year on lawsuit abuses in the form of attorney fees and settlements when, if we work on balancing Missouri's Human Rights Act, those monies will no longer be tied up in the legal system, and businesses will be able to reinvest and strengthen the state's work force.

Along with job creation we are also saying “no” to new taxes. Raising taxes at this difficult time would hurt our chances of an economic recovery. Instead, lawmakers will focus on living within our state’s means and not spending more than what is brought in by hard-earned taxpayer dollars. It’s our goal to put as much money as we can back into the pockets of hard-working Missourians.

Our commitment to education will continue to be a driving force in the Legislature. We also want to make health care possible for all Missourians by making it more available and more affordable and by giving consumers the ability to make their own informed decisions on health care matters.

The job creation, education, and health care measures, along with many other measures, are weighing on the minds of your lawmakers in the Capitol as we head into 2011 and set a path for the upcoming session. Even though we, as legislators, face difficult situations, we are working to make Missouri a great home for our families and our future.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and answering any questions you may have. 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 31<sup>st</sup> State Senatorial District.*

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