



# STATE SENATOR SHALONN "KIKI" CURLS

## DISTRICT 9 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

### DEAR CONSTITUENTS,

*The Second Regular Session of the 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly came to a close on May 13. My office has been using this time during the interim to be back home in Kansas City, meeting with citizens, attending area events and drafting legislation for the upcoming 2017 session.*

*In this legislative review, you will find updates on several of the measures I sponsored this year, information on the annual budget and important district news.*

*As always, it is an honor to serve as your voice in the Missouri State Senate. I remain committed to working hard every day to further the interests of the men, women and children of the 9<sup>th</sup> District.*

*Sincerely,*

Shalonn "Kiki" Curls  
State Senator

CAPITOL OFFICE  
201 W. CAPITOL AVE., RM. 434  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101  
(573) 751-3158  
[WWW.SENATE.MO.GOV/CURLS](http://WWW.SENATE.MO.GOV/CURLS)

DISTRICT OFFICE  
4609 PASEO, STE. 102  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64110  
(816) 923-6000

### EXPUNGEMENT (SEALING OF NON-VIOLENT CRIMINAL RECORDS)

How long are we going to make individuals who have paid their debt to society carry the stigma of their past crimes? It is a question Missouri lawmakers have debated for years. Technology has made it very easy to check a person's criminal background, and every mistake is out there for the public to see. This means that even though a person has served their time, it is likely they will continue paying for their past for years, decades and sometimes the rest of their life. From being denied housing to the enormous difficulty of finding a decent job, society continues to punish them at nearly every turn.

Previously, the list of crimes eligible for expungement in Missouri was extremely limited and individuals had to wait 10-20 years before they could even request an expungement. Despite public support to overhaul the process, the Legislature had been unable to agree on a better system, until this past session. For the second year in a row, I sponsored a measure to help those Missourians who have paid their debt to society and become law-abiding citizens take back their lives and livelihoods. I am very pleased to say my legislation, Senate Bill 603, was incorporated into Senate Bill 588, which was signed by the governor on July 13.

Senate Bill 588, 603 & 942 expands the list of offenses eligible for expungement to include misdemeanors, ordinance violations, infractions and certain non-violent felonies. Once a person's record has been sealed, it will no longer be available to the public; however, it will remain available for future criminal justice purposes. The measure also allows a person to petition for expungement seven years after completing their sentence and probation for a felony and three years after completing their sentence and probation for a misdemeanor, ordinance violation or infraction.

While there is certainly more work that needs to be done, SB 588, 603 & 492 will allow men and women who have served their time more easily get their lives back on track, hopefully leaving behind the stigma of their past crimes for good. Senate Bill 588, 603 & 492 takes effect on Jan. 1, 2018. The form to petition for expungement may be found by visiting: [www.courts.mo.gov](http://www.courts.mo.gov), then clicking on the Court Forms tab and then the Criminal Forms tab to find the CR 360 Petition for Expungement of Arrest/Plea/Trial/Conviction(s) form.

### SEN. CURLS WELCOMES STUDENTS TO THE CAPITOL



In May, I was delighted to welcome fifth grade students and faculty from Attucks Elementary School in Kansas City to our beautiful Capitol in Jefferson City.

I always look forward to meeting with constituents, most especially our youngest citizens.



## GOVERNOR SIGNS MEASURE TO PROTECT TENANTS



This session, I filed Senate Bill 743 to increase the amount of damages a tenant can recover from a landlord who has wrongfully withheld any portion of their security deposit to twice the amount wrongfully withheld. The bill also prohibits landlords from commingling their tenants' security deposits with their own personal funds. Finally, it provides that landlords must keep tenants' security deposits in a bank, credit union or depository institution that is insured by an agency of the federal government; however, any interest earned belongs to the landlord. These requirements do not apply to public housing authorities or government entities acting as landlords. Senate Bill 743 is identical to language passed in House Bill 1862, which was approved by the governor in July and took effect Aug. 28.

## EXPANDING MISSOURI'S FARM-TO-SCHOOL ACT

I sponsored Senate Bill 1010 this year to expand Missouri's "Farm-to-School Act." Currently, the Farm-to-School program connects Missouri farmers to schools in order to provide students with locally grown agricultural products for school meals and snacks. This also serves to strengthen local farming economies. My measure simply changes the Farm-to-School Act to the "Farm-to-Table Act," opening up the program to institutions such as correctional facilities, hospitals, nursing homes and military bases. The act also requires the Department of Agriculture to develop program goals and requires participating institutions to purchase at least 7 percent of their food products locally by Dec. 31, 2019. Senate Bill 665 contains language that is identical to my SB 1010 and has been signed into law by the governor.



## SEN. CURLS SECURES IT CERTIFICATE FUNDING



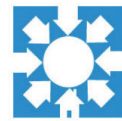
Research conducted by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center and the Department of Higher Education has found that although information technology jobs provide better than average salary and benefits, they are going unfulfilled in Missouri due to a skills gap.

As a mother and a public servant, I am committed to making sure young people in Missouri have the necessary knowledge and experience to be competitive in a rapidly changing 21<sup>st</sup> Century

job market. This is why two years ago I sponsored legislation to create a practical pathway for Missouri high school students to acquire the skills and competencies they need to earn an IT certificate and compete for high-quality jobs.

IT certifications are a key component to pursuing a career in IT and the most requested by employers looking to hire in this field. These certificates can be obtained without having to pursue the normal higher education degree.

Since my legislation was signed into law in August 2014, I have been working to secure funding to get this certificate program up and running. I am pleased to say the General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 this year to contract for IT certification services that will provide the necessary education and training for students in Missouri.



## Center for Neighborhoods

For the past three sessions, I have worked to secure funding for the University of Missouri-Kansas City Center for Neighborhoods: a one-stop location where neighborhood leaders and residents can access UMKC resources and capacities to improve their neighborhoods. After obtaining initial funding last year, this year's appropriation of \$400,000 will further support the center's mission of building up people and their communities.

The center works with all neighborhoods in Kansas City, Missouri, and surrounding areas to identify disparities and remove barriers to build a more sustainable city. They collaborate with individuals, neighborhood leaders and advocates who are motivated to make their block, their neighborhood and their city a better place. I encourage you to join today and help make your Kansas City neighborhood a better place to live, work and play.

**Center for Neighborhoods**  
**4747 Troost Ave, Room 222**  
**Kansas City, MO**  
**(816) 235-6931**  
**[info.umkc.edu/cfn](mailto:info.umkc.edu/cfn)**  
**[facebook.com/cfn.umkc](https://facebook.com/cfn.umkc)**



## LUCILE BLUFORD DAY



This session, I had the honor of handling House Bill 1559, sponsored by Rep. Gail McCann Beatty, which designates July 1 as “Lucile Bluford Day” in Missouri. Born in South Carolina in 1911, Lucile Harris Bluford moved to Kansas City with her family when she was seven years old.

Lucille went on to become a journalist and civil rights activist who successfully sued to end segregation at the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism and whose long and distinguished career at The Kansas City Call contributed to it becoming one of the largest and most important black newspapers in the nation. Lucile passed away in Kansas City in 2003 at the age of 91. With the passage of HB 1559, Missouri citizens are formally called to observe July 1 in honor of this amazing woman and true Show-Me State hero.

Pictured above: Senior portrait of Lucile H. Bluford, 1932. The State Historical Society of Missouri.

## NEUROBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY

In May, the Legislature adopted a resolution I filed this session designating Nov. 14, 2016, as Neuroblastoma Cancer Awareness Day. Neuroblastoma is a type of cancer that forms in the sympathetic nervous system of infants and young children. It is responsible for 12 percent of all cancer deaths in children under 15 years of age, and it is also the most common type of cancer among infants. Sadly, a child dies every 16 hours from the disease.

Physicians often face major challenges in diagnosing neuroblastoma because the symptoms are very similar to more common and less serious childhood illnesses. Sadly, for roughly two out of three children, the disease has already spread to other parts of the body by the time they are correctly diagnosed. I filed Senate Concurrent Resolution 42 because the children and families suffering from neuroblastoma deserve recognition and support in their battle against this disease.



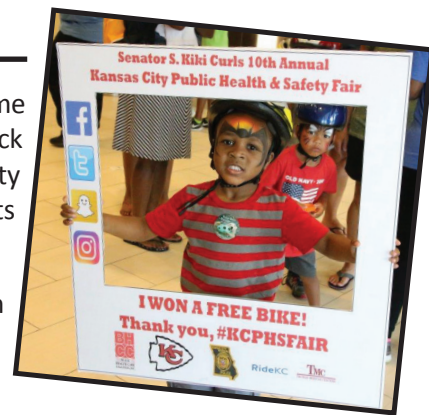
## SEN. CURLS HOSTS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR

On Saturday, July 23, I hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Health & Safety Fair at Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs. Thanks to our valued sponsors and wonderful partnerships with the Black Health Care Coalition, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Missouri Police Department and Truman Medical Centers, we were able to provide area residents with the tools they need to help fight and prevent disease while supporting a healthy lifestyle.



This year’s record crowd of more than 3,000 men, women and children enjoyed a variety of beneficial services and fun activities, which were provided by 160 vendors. In addition to numerous health screenings and student sports physicals, parents were able to have their children’s car and booster seats professionally installed. We also gave away 300 vouchers to the Truman Medical Center Mobile Market and raffled off 100 new bicycles to area youth.

For the past decade, I have watched with increasing pride as the Public Health & Safety Fair has continued to grow and develop, its reach expanding just a little further with each passing year. I sincerely wish to thank all of this year’s sponsors and partners. Most especially, thank you to the Kansas City Chiefs organization for going above and beyond in serving our community. I hope to see many new and familiar faces at next year’s fair, which will once again be held at Arrowhead Stadium.



STATE SENATOR  
 SHALONN “KIKI” CURLS  
 201 W Capitol Ave Rm 434  
 Jefferson City, MO 65101

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 Jefferson City, MO 65101  
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## MISSOURI’S SPENDING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

With an increase of \$71 million, this year’s budget allocates a record level of funding for K-12 education and provides additional resources for early childhood services. We were able to increase funding for early childhood special education and the Missouri Preschool Program by \$21.2 million and \$1 million, respectively. The budget also increases funding for state scholarship programs, including an additional \$4 million for Access MO, \$2.5 million for A+ and \$500,000 for Bright Flight. Missouri’s colleges and universities also received a 4 percent across-the-board increase in performance and equity funding.

### SENATOR CURLS CHAMPIONED THESE BUDGETARY ITEMS FOR THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT AND SURROUNDING KC AREA

- \$50,000 - American Jazz Redevelopment Authority
- \$100,000 - KC Tutoring Program
- \$100,000 - Buck O’Neil Community Center
- \$150,000 - Negro Leagues Museum
- \$218,000 - Kansas City Re-entry Programs
- \$400,000 - UMKC Neighborhood Initiative
- \$1,300,000 - Metropolitan Community College - Student Success Center
- \$2,000,000 - Bartle Hall Convention Center
- \$2,500,000 - KC Crisis Intervention Services/New Prospects
- \$3,000,000 - Jackson County Sports Authority (Arrowhead & Kauffman)
- \$3,500,000 - UMKC/MSSU Cooperative Dental Program
- \$4,491,323 - Kansas City Regional Center
- \$5,000,000 - UM System KC Area Cooperative Medical Student Training

### DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AFTER VETO OPERATING BUDGET All Funds: \$27.258 Billion



\*Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, and Real Estate

## SENATOR CURLS’ COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Agriculture, Food Production & Outdoor Resources  
 Appropriations  
 Gubernatorial Appointments

Jobs, Economic Development & Local Government  
 Small Business, Insurance & Industry  
 Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Safety