

Journal of the Senate

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ELEVENTH DAY - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

President Kehoe in the Chair.

The Reverend Steven George offered the following prayer:

"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12 NIV)

Heavenly Father, we ask that You would give us wisdom to make decisions which would reflect Your character and help our state thrive. Help us to remember to seek Your guidance and not lean on our own understanding. Help each of us to remember that we are not perfect, and that all of us fall short of Your glory. We ask that you would give us humility as we work together to accomplish the work set out before us. We ask this in Your Holy Name, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

A quorum being established, the Senate proceeded with its business.

The Journal of the previous day was read and approved.

The following Senators were present during the day's proceedings:

Present—Senators

Arthur	Bean	Beck	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (16th Dist.)
Brown (26th Dist.)	Carter	Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Eigel	Eslinger
Fitzwater	Gannon	Hoskins	Hough	Koenig	Luetkemeyer	May
McCreery	Moon	Mosley	O'Laughlin	Razer	Rizzo	Roberts
Rowden	Schroer	Thompson Rehder	Trent	Washington	Williams—34	

Absent—Senators—None

Absent with leave—Senators—None

Vacancies—None

The Lieutenant Governor was present.

RESOLUTIONS

Senator Crawford offered Senate Resolution No. 621, regarding Missouri DECA, which was adopted.

Senator Brown (26) offered Senate Resolution No. 622, regarding Eagle Scout Shane Greer, Linn, which was adopted.

Senator Fitzwater offered Senate Resolution No. 623, regarding Thomas Brady, Holts Summit, which was adopted.

Senator Koenig offered Senate Resolution No. 624, regarding Rohan Deshpande, Chesterfield, which was adopted.

Senator Koenig offered Senate Resolution No. 625, regarding Parkway South High School, Manchester, which was adopted.

Senator Brown (16) offered Senate Resolution No. 626, regarding Connie Goodridge, Rolla, which was adopted.

Senator Beck offered the following resolution:

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 627

Whereas, the members of the Missouri Senate believe it is altogether fitting and proper to recognize the birth of a child as one of life's most rewarding and miraculous occasions; and

Whereas, it is with great pride and sincere admiration that this legislative body pauses to acknowledge the arrival of a very special addition to the citizenry of the great State of Missouri: Murphy Douglas Beck; and

Whereas, Murphy Douglas Beck was welcomed into this world on Saturday, January 20, 2024, by his proud and loving parents, Corey and Katie Beck of St. Louis, Missouri; and

Whereas, tipping the scales at six pounds, twelve ounces and measuring nineteen inches in length, Murphy Douglas Beck debuted as the picture of infant health; and

Whereas, Murphy Douglas Beck is the firstborn child of Corey and Katie Beck and the fourth grandchild of Doug and Marilyn Beck; and

Whereas, Murphy Douglas Beck will receive a lifetime of love, support, and encouragement from all the devoted members of his family who have welcomed him into their hearts as a precious gift from God:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that we, the members of the Missouri Senate join in extending a warm and hearty welcome to and express our most heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to his proud parents at the beginning of their new life together; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to Corey and Katie Beck.

Senator Roberts offered Senate Resolution No. 628, regarding Vivian Martain, St. Louis, which was adopted.

Senator Rizzo offered Senate Resolution No. 629, regarding the death of Dominick "Scoots" Scudiero, Kansas City, which was adopted.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

Senator Arthur offered the following concurrent resolution:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Relating to SCN2A awareness day.

Whereas, mutations of the SCN2A gene are the leading single cause of neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, childhood seizures, and intellectual disabilities; and

Whereas, SCN2A disorders are also associated with a spectrum of syndromes ranging from severe, life-threatening conditions to developmental delays, including sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal dysfunction, movement disorders, pain, and dysautonomia; and

Whereas, research predicts that approximately one in nine thousand people will be diagnosed with SCN2A-related disorders; and

Whereas, while SCN2A-related disorders can be easily identified by DNA testing, SCN2A-related disorders frequently go undetected due to a lack of awareness, even within the medical community; and

Whereas, the field of study of SCN2A-related disorders is growing, but additional studies are needed to develop therapies and treatments:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby designate February 24 of each year as "SCN2A Awareness Day" in Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the General Assembly encourages all residents of this state to participate in activities and wear purple, blue, or green on this day to bring awareness of these conditions and the need for treatment; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

Read 1st time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills were read the 1st time and ordered printed:

SB 1350—By Luetkemeyer.

An Act to amend chapter 34, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to public contracts.

SB 1351—By Luetkemeyer.

An Act to repeal section 256.410, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the release of certain confidential information by the division of geology and land survey, with penalty provisions.

SB 1352—By Luetkemeyer.

An Act to repeal sections 400.1-201, 400.1-204, 400.1-301, 400.1-306, 400.2-102, 400.2-106, 400.2-201, 400.2-202, 400.2-203, 400.2-205, 400.2-209, 400.2A-102, 400.2A-103, 400.2A-107, 400.2A-201, 400.2A-202, 400.2A-203, 400.2A-205, 400.2A-208, 400.3-104, 400.3-105, 400.3-401, 400.3-604, 400.4A-103, 400.4A-201, 400.4A-202, 400.4A-203, 400.4A-207, 400.4A-208, 400.4A-210, 400.4A-211, 400.4A-305, 400.5-104, 400.5-116, 400.7-102, 400.7-106, 400.8-102, 400.8-103, 400.8-106, 400.8-110, 400.8-303, 400.9-102, 400.9-104, 400.9-105, 400.9-203, 400.9-204, 400.9-207, 400.9-208, 400.9-209, 400.9-210, 400.9-301, 400.9-304, 400.9-305, 400.9-310, 400.9-312, 400.9-313, 400.9-314, 400.9-316, 400.9-317, 400.9-323, 400.9-324, 400.9-330, 400.9-331, 400.9-332, 400.9-334, 400.9-341, 400.9-404, 400.9-406, 400.9-408, 400.9-509, 400.9-513, 400.9-601, 400.9-605, 400.9-608, 400.9-611, 400.9-613, 400.9-614, 400.9-615, 400.9-616, 400.9-619, 400.9-620, 400.9-621, 400.9-624, and 400.9-628, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one hundred eight new sections relating to commercial transactions.

SB 1353—By Brown (16).

An Act to repeal section 221.105, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to reimbursements to jails.

SB 1354—By Cierpiot.

An Act to amend chapter 144, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a sales and use tax exemption for certain broadband communications service equipment.

SB 1355—By Williams.

An Act to amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to grants to employers for the purpose of enhancing cybersecurity.

SB 1356—By Williams.

An Act to repeal section 292.606, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to fees paid to the Missouri emergency response commission.

SB 1357—By Thompson Rehder.

An Act to repeal section 192.990, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to maternal mortality.

SB 1358—By Thompson Rehder.

An Act to repeal sections 407.1025 and 407.1034, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to vehicle dealers.

SB 1359—By Trent.

An Act to amend chapter 380, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to mutual insurance companies.

SB 1360—By Brown (16).

An Act to amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to incentives for converting a business to produce certain chemicals, gases, metals, and minerals.

SB 1361—By Brown (16).

An Act to repeal section 205.971, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to county developmental disability resource board taxes.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

The following messages were received from the House of Representatives through its Chief Clerk:

Mr. President: I am instructed by the House of Representatives to inform the Senate that the Speaker has appointed the following members to act with a like committee from the Senate pursuant to **HCR 28**. Representatives: Toalson Reisch, Reedy, Stephens, Kelly (127), Burger, Stacy, Brown (27), Barnes, Bangert and Meredith.

Also,

Mr. President: I am instructed by the House of Representatives to inform the Senate that the House has taken up and adopted **HCR 37**.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, of the State of Missouri, the Senate concurring therein, that the House of Representatives and the Senate convene in Joint Session in the Hall of

the House of Representatives at 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, February 7, 2024, to receive a message from the Honorable Mary R. Russell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to inform the Senate of the adoption of this resolution.

In which the concurrence of the Senate is respectfully requested.

On motion of Senator O'Laughlin, the Senate repaired to the House of Representatives to receive the State of the State Address from His Excellency, Governor Michael L. Parson.

JOINT SESSION

The Joint Session was called to order by President Kehoe.

The Color Guard from the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop F, presented the colors.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

On roll call the following Senators were present:

Present—Senators

Arthur	Bean	Beck	Bernskoetter	Black	Brattin	Brown (16th Dist.)
Brown (26th Dist.)	Carter	Cierpiot	Coleman	Crawford	Eigel	Eslinger
Fitzwater	Gannon	Hoskins	Hough	Koenig	Luetkemeyer	May
McCreery	Moon	Mosley	O'Laughlin	Razer	Rizzo	Roberts
Rowden	Thompson Rehder	Trent	Washington	Williams—33		

Absent—Senator Schroer—1

Absent with leave—Senators—None

Vacancies—None

On roll call the following Representatives were present:

PRESENT: 153

Adams	Allen	Amato	Anderson	Aune	Baker	Banderman
Bangert	Baringer	Barnes	Billington	Black	Bland Manlove	Boggs
Bonacker	Bosley	Bromley	Brown (16)	Brown (149)	Brown (87)	Brown (27)
Buchheit-Courtway	Burger	Burton	Busick	Butz	Byrnes	Casteel
Chappell	Christ	Christensen	Coleman	Collins	Cook	Copeland
Crossley	Cupps	Davidson	Davis	Deaton	Diehl	Dinkins
Doll	Ealy	Evans	Falkner	Farnan	Fogle	Fountain Henderson
Francis	Gallick	Gragg	Gray	Gregory	Griffith	Haden
Haffner	Haley	Hardwick	Hausman	Hein	Henderson	Hicks
Hinman	Houx	Hovis	Hudson	Hurlbert	Ingle	Johnson (12)
Johnson (23)	Jones	Justus	Kalberloh	Keathley	Kelley (127)	Kelly (141)
Knight	Lavender	Lewis (6)	Lonsdale	Lovasco	Mackey	Mann
Marquart	Mayhew	McGaugh	McGill	McMullen	Merideth	Morse
Mosley	Murphy	Myers	Nickson-Clark	Nurrenbern	O'Donnell	Oehlerking
Owen	Parker	Patterson	Perkins	Peters	Phifer	Plank
Pollitt	Pouche	Proudie	Quade	Reedy	Reuter	Richey
Riggs	Riley	Roberts	Sander	Sassmann	Schnelting	Schulte
Schwadron	Seitz	Sharp (37)	Sharpe (4)	Shields	Smith (155)	Smith (163)
Smith (46)	Sparks	Stacy	Steinhoff	Stephens	Stinnett	Strickler
Taylor (48)	Taylor (84)	Terry	Thomas	Thompson	Titus	Toalson Reisch
Unsicker	Van Schoiack	Veit	Voss	Waller	Walsh Moore	Weber

West	Wilson	Windham	Woods	Wright	Mr. Speaker	
ABSENT: 9						
Appelbaum	Atchison	Burnett	Christofanelli	Clemens	Lewis (25)	Matthiesen
Sauls	Young					

VACANCIES: 1

The Joint Committee appointed to wait upon his Excellency, Governor Michael L. Parson, escorted the Governor to the dais where he delivered the State of the State Address to the Joint Assembly:

2024 State of the State Address – PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Governor Mike Parson

Thank you Lieutenant Governor Kehoe, Mr. Speaker, statewide officials, members of the General Assembly, esteemed guests...

AND it is my honor to welcome...for the first time in our state's history... Judges of the first ever female-majority Supreme Court of Missouri.

It is an honor to be joined by the First Lady as I'm welcomed to the dais for the final time as the 57th Governor of the Great State of Missouri.

During our time as Governor, we've accomplished more than any of us probably thought was ever possible. BUT I wouldn't be standing here today without my support system...my family. AND that's where I want to start.

First and foremost, the First Lady... Teresa has been by my side every step of the way. AND after 38 years of marriage, I wouldn't be the Husband, Father, Gramps, or Governor I am today without her.

Thank you for serving in a role you never asked for but doing it each and every day with grace and a passionate commitment to best serve the people of Missouri.

Ladies and gentleman, your distinguished First Lady of the great state of Missouri...

Would my family please stand to be recognized?

Like the legislators in this room and Missourians across the state...my faith, family, and the next generations are the driving force behind the change we have made in Missouri.

AND last year when I stood before you, I highlighted many of our historic achievements we've accomplished together...

As we laid out bold and historic proposals, I declared that this Governor...this Dad...and this Gramps...is not done yet...

We are not done yet...and while that's still true, I'm here to tell you...We're getting close.

After serving six sessions in the House, six sessions in the Senate, two sessions as Lt. Governor, and now my sixth and final session as your 57th Governor...I am expected to say this is a bittersweet moment.

BUT while the view from this dais facing all of you is a fine sight to see...it's no comparison to the view of the Polk County fields behind the windshield of my John Deere tractor.

But look...I promise to think of all of you...on occasion.

BUT in all seriousness, I'll be leaving here with my head held high...

Because like many of you who came here for the right reasons...We never wavered from those wise words on our Capitol and inscribed in our state seal...

“Let the good of the people be the supreme law.”

In every decision we make, we must look to the effects on the next generations and the ability for them to achieve their American Dream. In every decision, we must PUT PEOPLE FIRST.

Easy said, but hard to do...it's a simple idea that has been our guiding principle since the very beginning.

AND that's our final commitment to you. Until our final day...we'll continue to put people first.

When I became Governor, Missourians were tired of the turmoil, political infighting, and self-involved personalities. They were tired of quitters...

AND when I first stepped into the Governor's Office, amidst the thousands of camera clicks, hundreds of shouting questions, and countless state, local, and national media...we CLOSED the chapter on scandal and began a new direction...because there was NO TURNIN' BACK.

We declared a fresh start and the return of stability. We committed to ensuring the next generations have their opportunity at the American Dream. We promised the return of integrity to state government...

AND above all we promised to return a people first mentality. AND today, I firmly believe we have DONE just that.

Every year, we have approved conservative and balanced budgets. We have maintained our AAA credit rating and we've ALWAYS left funds on the bottom line.

Actually, with the budget we outline today...we will leave office with over \$1.5 billion dollars on the bottom line, which has never been done before in our state's history.

We're also pleased to report that we have paid down Missouri's debt by over \$600 million dollars, leaving the state with 53 percent less debt than when we started.

That is quite the contrast compared to what we are seeing happen in Washington D.C., in Missouri, we don't leave future generations to pick up the tab. We pay our bills, and we put people first...

Working with all of you, balanced and conservative budgets have always been the norm never the exception.

AND we've always been more interested in giving back Missourians' hard-earned dollars rather than spending them.

In turn, that creates jobs, business growth, and increased revenues to the state.

In fact, state revenues have increased 40 percent since 2018. With significant growth coming from sales revenue...not income taxes, not corporate taxes, and not fuel taxes...but from revenue created by Missourians spending their own money. Not government programs.

AND ONE HUGE FACTOR was the three separate tax CUTS we approved... including the largest in our state's history.

We have decreased Missourians' tax burdens by over 20 percent. Unleashing an economic powerhouse in the State of Missouri.

When I became Governor, we were ranked 42nd for GDP growth and last among our Midwest neighbors. Today, we are ranked 23rd in the nation and Top 5 in the Midwest for GDP growth.

That's a real reckoning here in Jefferson City. That's not all talk and hot air, that's a true reckoning of growth and opportunity that Missourians have come to expect from this administration and state government.

That's our leadership creating a real formula for success, and that's something all of us should celebrate in this chamber.

Overall, Missouri now has the 13th lowest tax burden of any state in the nation.

AND under our Administration, our unemployment rate fell to 2.1 percent, the lowest rate ever recorded in our state's history. Actually, it has been so low that our problem is not creating jobs but filling jobs.

Since becoming Governor, we've added more than 110,000 jobs to our economy and closed out the year ranked 15th nationally for job creation.

Today, as I stand before you for the final time as Missouri's 57th Governor... I declare that the State of our State is stronger than it has ever been.

We've done it all by putting people first...AND that started with state government.

Nothing we do in this room is possible without the dedicated public servants across the state to implement these ideas. BUT when I became Governor, state government was quickly becoming underappreciated, understaffed, and underpaid.

That's why we approved three historic pay increases to recruit and retain quality talent across state government - raising team member pay by over 20 percent since 2018.

AND let me just say: investments in our state employees have been worth EVERY penny.

AND that's why this year we are proposing an additional 3.2 percent cost of living increase for all state employees.

AND representing our more than 47,000 state team members here today is my Cabinet.

Through every crisis, I turned to my Cabinet and their teams not the federal government...AND I always maintained that the answers to our problems are in this state and among our people...

If we just allow ourselves to put egos and self-importance to the side and listen.

AND while they may have already been recognized, I want to ask my Cabinet to stand with me for one last time...

I always say that being a good leader is not about being the best but making those around you better. AND today I thank you and your teams for proving that to be true.

Please join me in giving them another round of applause.

Putting people first is something we implemented across state government because we set the example from the Governor's Office.

From the start, we got straight to work. We completed the largest de-regulation effort in state history, eliminating nearly one out of every five state regulations.

AND during COVID-19, we waived over 600 more regulations. By working with the General Assembly, we made many of these changes permanent in statute and improved the regulatory environment in Missouri.

Because to be honest, many of these rules and laws should have never existed in the first place.

When I became Governor, we also inherited nearly 4,000 pending clemency applications. While I'm a law and order Governor, 4,000 people in limbo waiting for an answer is not how we do good business.

Whether approved or denied, we set out to provide answers. Today, I'm proud to announce that the clemency backlog we inherited has been totally cleared for the first time in decades.

BUT as a former sheriff, this reform did not mean we were letting people out of prisons or forgiving violent criminals, we pardoned people who deserved it...people who had truly turned their lives around...

People like Kenny Batson who joins us here today. In his youth, Kenny was drinking, getting into fights, and found himself on the wrong side of the law. BUT today, Kenny has turned his life completely around.

Kenny is a proud husband and father of three kids. He earned both a bachelor's and master's degree and has been a pastor for more than 20 years, including serving as a hospice chaplain.

Kenny and others like him might have made some mistakes when they were young...but he earned a second chance.

Please join me in recognizing Kenny Batson.

Another way our office has been able to capitalize on historic opportunity is appointing over 155 Missouri judges and three Supreme Court Judges... Meaning more than 40 percent of the judiciary has been appointed by our administration.

That is more appointments than any Governor in our state's history.

By focusing on core conservative values, we've truly reshaped the judiciary for generations to come. AND guaranteed a judiciary that upholds the law, NOT the politics of the moment.

Additionally, in putting the people of Missouri first, our office put politics aside and appointed five strong statewide office holders, which has never happened before in our state's history.

Lt. Governor Kehoe, Attorney General Bailey, Auditor Fitzpatrick, Treasurer Malek, and though he's not here today, Senator Schmitt...thank you for stepping up and answering the call to serve Missourians. I trust you will never quit on our people and the great State of Missouri.

Today, I want to highlight another one of our quality appointments in the City of St. Louis Circuit Attorney Gabe Gore.

We didn't pick Mr. Gore because of his politics...matter of fact we never even asked...it was because he clearly cared for the people of St. Louis. He valued strong communities, fighting crime, returning law and order...and putting people first.

The level of professionalism between the Circuit Attorney's Office, Metro police, the courts, the Attorney General's Office, and our office is greater than I have ever experienced.

Please join me in recognizing St. Louis Circuit Attorney Gabe Gore.

When the history books tell the story of Missouri's 57th Governor, I hope it's our workforce development and infrastructure accomplishments that stand out.

AND this year, as we propose our final priorities as Governor...there is NO TURNIN' BACK.

We know that guaranteeing Missouri's strong foundation starts with a quality education for our children.

This year, we will once again fully fund the K-12 Foundation Formula with an additional \$120 million dollars over last year's levels.

AND we are also fully funding school transportation across the state of Missouri.

In total, our administration has increased funding for K-12 education by \$700 million dollars since 2018. AND I'll note, that's all state funding...not the federal government.

AND at the same time, our administration and this General Assembly took the first step towards school choice for more Missouri families through our education savings account program.

Whether it be public, private, charter, or Christian... we don't care where Missourians are getting a quality education just as long as they get one.

This year, to do our part on teacher pay, we are including funding to increase teacher baseline pay to \$40,000 dollars per year. This represents a \$15,000 dollar increase for teacher pay during our administration.

We are also recommending \$6 million dollars for Career Ladder.

Together, these programs have benefited tens of thousands of teachers in every corner of our state.

We've also made historic investments in Missouri higher education.

We've increased higher education core funding by 24 percent...and invested \$1.2 billion dollars in state-of-the-art capital improvements and upgrades on our college campuses.

In this year's budget, we included another 3 percent core increase for our four-year institutions and community colleges.

AND \$54 million dollars for MoExcels workforce training programs on our college campuses.

When I graduated high school, I went straight into the workforce and joined the United States Army...and for me there was no turin' back.

My path is similar to many Missourians, as nearly 60 percent of our workforce don't have college degrees. AND that's okay because we all know it doesn't take a college education to be successful.

Since 2018, we have helped establish, upgrade, and transform 57 career and technical education institutions across our state. More of our young people are earning a quality skill, certificate, or credential that will help secure them a good-paying job without a college degree.

We are also upskilling our current workforce and helping them secure the skills they need to succeed. Since its upgrade in 2019, Missouri One Start has helped train more than 173,000 workers.

Additionally, since its creation, our Fast Track program has benefited over 1,700 students, with more than 55 percent going into healthcare AND more than two-thirds being women.

We have also made tremendous progress by prioritizing apprenticeships in this state. AND joining us today are some of the individuals who have benefited from our historic support.

In the upper gallery, we have...

- Isaac Lough from Four Rivers Career Center...
- Kayla Putnam an apprentice and Army Reservist from Springfield,
- AND Ricky Schmoll, who is a trucking apprentice from Pleasant Hill.

I firmly believe that with hard work, determination, and a skill of some kind anyone can achieve the American Dream. AND these individuals are proving it.

Please join me in recognizing these hard-working folks and others like them across our state.

This group represents just a sample of the more than 57,000 new apprenticeship we have added since becoming Governor. Under our administration, yearly apprenticeship activity in Missouri has grown by 100 percent.

That's why this year we are including another \$3 million dollar investment to support even more youth apprenticeship opportunities. As you can see, these targeted investments truly make a difference in the lives of Missourians.

AND thanks to our past efforts, I'm proud to report that Missouri is ranked 2nd in the United States for apprenticeships. AND that's something we should all be proud of.

Like any challenge in this state, we rise to it...not hide from it. This year, we are also investing another \$10 million dollars for advanced semiconductor research, development, and skills training...as well as nearly \$7 million dollars to support critical mineral development in Missouri.

Missouri ranks 4th in the nation for new manufacturing...when it comes to semiconductors and critical minerals...we can lead...AND we will lead to ensure we never have to rely on nations like China again.

Another focus in the workforce development arena that the First Lady and I are especially proud of is JAG Missouri.

JAG includes students who may be struggling academically, who may have found themselves in some trouble, or are high-risk.

When we first began the JAG initiative back in our Lt. Governor days, JAG was supporting just six programs and serving 225 students.

Today, JAG Missouri supports 112 programs and serves more than 4,000 Missouri students with a high school graduation rate of 98 percent.

AND that's thanks in large part to the First Lady for taking this program under her wing.

In the upper gallery, we have current and former JAG students joining us today. Thanks to JAG, these students are well on their way...whether that's college, the military, or straight into the workforce.

AND with your help, we can support this life-changing program with an investment of \$3.8 million dollars.

BUT if you choose not to stand behind these students in the upper gallery and the thousands like them across the state...it won't be me you have to answer to...but the First Lady herself.

Please join me in giving the JAG students and specialists here with us today a round of applause for their exceptional work.

When it comes to preparing Missourians for the workforce, we know we are on solid ground. The biggest thing we can do is simply continue.

But today our state is in critical need of quality early learning programs.

Business leaders estimate that lack of early learning programs is costing our state over \$1 billion dollars annually. AND over 85 percent of Missourians believe early childhood learning supports a child's success, parents' success, and business success.

BUT today, we have the capacity to serve just 39 percent of Missouri children in licensed facilities. It's time for change.

This year, alongside Senator Arthur and Representative Shields, we are again proposing three new child care tax credit programs.

These programs will help improve access and affordability for families seeking child care across the state of Missouri.

Additionally, we are continuing funding for the expansion of pre-kindergarten programs.

These are commonsense measures that are good for business, great for families, and best for all Missouri children.

Joining us today is Katherine Godier and her child Theo who utilize Missouri's child care subsidy. Yet, Katherine still finds it difficult to afford quality child care.

Katherine is a full-time nursing student that uses Mineral Area College's early learning program...without help, she's not sure she could afford or find care for Theo.

Katherine only wants the best possible education for Theo. Something I think we can all agree should be the minimum for every child in Missouri.

That's why this year we are proposing a \$52 million dollar investment in Missouri's child care subsidy program to make sure infants, toddlers, and children like Theo can receive the quality care they need and deserve.

Please join me in welcoming Katherine, Theo, and Program Director Jennifer Sikes from Mineral Area College.

Another issue affecting Missouri children is the fentanyl crisis.

Drugs pouring into our country through the southern border is devastating Missouri families. Last year, dozens of Missouri children were lost due to fentanyl exposure.

This year, alongside Senator Thompson-Rehder and Representative Parker, we are proposing legislation that guarantees stricter punishments for exposing children and minors to fentanyl.

The fentanyl crisis is here and is tearing families and communities apart. Children dying from fentanyl is 100 percent preventable.

AND while President Biden and the federal government fail to do their job by securing our southern border...Missouri WILL ACT.

We are also protecting Missouri children and our most vulnerable by supporting Attorney General Andrew Bailey's plan to find, prosecute, and punish human traffickers in the State of Missouri.

Together, these initiatives are not only pro-children and pro-family BUT pro-life as well.

AND speaking of pro-life, I want to take this opportunity to highlight our historic success in Missouri's FIGHT FOR LIFE.

When I came to Jefferson City, nearly 8,000 elective abortions were performed annually in Missouri. As I stand before you today...I'm proud to report that number is ZERO.

Now, on to another priority of this administration - roads, bridges, and Missouri's infrastructure. While road and bridge repair might not be the most exciting topic...it is one that impacts all Missourians the most.

Infrastructure was one of the first major initiatives we took on.

AND five and half years ago, working with all of you, we set out to repair or replace 250 of Missouri poorest bridges.

For the first time in our state's history, we leveraged general revenue and bonding authority to fund our Focus on Bridges program.

The way in which we created this program allowed us to pull down additional funds to not only repair 250 overlooked and crumbling Missouri bridges...

BUT it freed up additional resources for major projects like the Buck O'Neil bridge, I-270 North, and the new Rocheport bridge.

Many doubted it could ever happen, but as I stand before you today, I say mission accomplished.

Focus On Bridges...COMPLETE. I-270 North...FINISHED...AND by this time next year, we fully expect Rocheport and Buck O' Neil to be completed... as... promised

We truly believe that our Focus on Bridges program will be THE model moving forward...because although focus was in the name, it doesn't mean everything else stopped.

In total, under our administration, we have repaired or replaced over 1,000 bridges across our state.

We've repaired nearly 17,000 miles of Missouri roadway in five short years. That's about 50 percent of Missouri's entire highway system that has been repaired or replaced.

AND I'll remind you, we have the 7th largest system in the nation.

As for rural Missouri, with an unprecedented funding of \$200 million dollars, nearly 2,000 miles of lettered roads have... been... completed.

When I became Governor, our Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for infrastructure projects across the entire state stood at \$2.5 billion dollars. Today, our STIP is funded at nearly \$14 billion dollars.

AND joining us today in the upper gallery are the men and women who are making it all happen.

Each of these eight men and women represent over 130 years of experience and the more than 4,600 MoDOT employees across our state.

Under our administration, we've kept this group busy. So please join me in recognizing their contributions to our state.

The expansion of I-70 has been talked about in this building for decades...decades of hot air...decades of passing the buck...under our administration, this General Assembly, and the leadership of Senator Hough...decades of inaction turned to ACTION.

This summer, construction on I-70 is set to begin in Columbia. AND from there...well let's just say there is No Turnin' Back.

BUT it's the strategic way in how we chose to fund I-70 that I bring up the project today.

With the smart use of our resources and efficient and effective work ...we are projecting an I-70 completion not only on time but with SAVINGS too.

AND two days ago, we received great news from Congressman Graves that we will be receiving over \$90 million dollars in additional funds to put towards projects on I-70.

With these additional funds and those savings, today, we are announcing our recommendation to establish the I-44 Improvement Fund.

This fund will build on the nearly \$150 million dollars already included in the current STIP.

That's right, we aren't just laying the foundation to expand and improve one interstate across our state... but TWO interstates.

Now, that all sounds good... but, I have more...

Today, we are also ranked 2nd in the United State for capital and bridge projects...9th for improving rural roads, and 11th for the cost-effectiveness and condition of our roadways.

Another important piece of infrastructure is broadband. Working with you, our administration has invested over \$400 million dollars toward broadband expansion ...making tens of thousands of homes, businesses, and farm connections across the state.

Thanks to these efforts, and now, another \$1.7 billion dollars coming to our state through federal funds that former Senator Blunt helped to secure...we believe that in the next five years, the digital divide in Missouri will be closed ONCE AND FOR ALL.

In less than six years, we've accomplished more than most Governors are able to in eight years. AND I'll remind you, we did it all while challenged with some of the most unprecedented events in our state's history.

Whether it was the duck boat crisis, floods, drought, tornadoes, civil unrest, train derailments...Or in 2020, when a global pandemic came knocking at our doors - a crisis that came with no roadmap or playbook...We never backed down or passed the buck.

Have there been critics? Sure... but critics are a dime a dozen.

AND one thing I've learned in life...you'll never be criticized by someone doing more than you...It will always be the person doing less who makes the most noise...

Through all the criticism, we never stopped working for the people of Missouri.

AND for all my like-minded colleagues who stood with me...fought alongside me...and who came here to be a good public servant and PUT PEOPLE FIRST...

I want you to listen closely to what I say next, because these are your wins too.

TOGETHER...We've reshaped our Supreme Court and judiciary as a whole.

We've protected second amendment rights, focused on law and order, and safeguarded Missouri's landmark castle doctrine.

We fought the fight for life – and reduced the number of abortions in our state from 8,000 annually to zero.

We've streamlined state agencies, supported our team members, and reduced the size of state government.

We've built over 1,000 bridges, repaired 50 percent of our entire highway system, and crafted lasting partnerships.

We've cut through nearly 20 percent of regulations on the books and made state government more efficient and effective while unleashing economic development.

We've maintained our AAA credit rating and achieved the lowest unemployment ever recorded in our state's history.

We've paid our bills and left the State of Missouri with 50 percent less debt than when we started.

We've left \$1.5 billion dollars on the bottom line.

We've created over 110,000 jobs and brought \$15 billion dollars in new business investment.

We've cut taxes three times and reduced income tax burdens by over 20 percent with the largest income tax cut in our state's history.

No one and I mean no one has gone to bat for the people of Missouri like this administration and you. AND today...WE...HAVE...WON...

As I begin to wrap up here, I want to recognize another group of special people who helped us make it all happen...

These individuals are truly the best of the best. I couldn't have asked for better people to serve with in the Office of Governor and the six million Missourians across our great state.

They're often overlooked and overworked, but their impact on this state is beyond measure. We've taken on challenges that no one could ever imagine. But they never complained, they never gave up, and, above all, they believed.

They believe in the mission, they believe in our people, and they believe in the extraordinary capabilities of Missourians to achieve an even better tomorrow.

I'm filled with pride that we have public servants of such caliber serving our great state. As the sun begins to set on my public service career, I know their talents will continue benefiting Missourians today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.

To the most loyal and hard-working people I have ever had the honor of working alongside...from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of this entire state...I say THANK YOU!

Would members of my staff, both past and present, please stand to be recognized.

As a final message to this body, I'm reminded of an old saying: "A society grows great when old men and women plant trees... the shade of which they know they will never sit in."

To summarize...it's all about putting people first.

Ladies and gentleman...that's been the focus of this administration. We've planted the seeds today for a better Missouri tomorrow. The First Lady and I may never be able to fully realize the work we've done here alongside all of you.

But that was never the purpose in the first place. The point is that all of our kids and grandkids across this state...THEY WILL.

With Faith, family, and freedom at the forefront...honoring the Constitution and leading with the ideas of the Declaration of Independence...putting people first...that's what leadership has been to us.

In Missouri, our economy is strong, our democracy is strong, our people are strong...and we can keep it that way...If we continue to PUT PEOPLE FIRST.

Missourians took a chance on me and placed their confidence in me and my team to put the people of this state first...you gave me the largest victory margin of any Republican Governor in modern history...and I will forever be grateful.

When I got the call to become Governor, my big brother told me... "LITTLE BROTHER... come back home the same way you're leaving here today...with your head held high."

Well, I'll be keeping that promise... The First Lady and I will be returning to the farm with our heads held high...

AND if we're honored enough to be considered by Missourians as a "pretty good Governor" "decent guy" or "someone who never forgot where he came from"... then it will all be worth it.

Words cannot express the sincere appreciation I have for this state and our people...

So... for one final time before this chamber today... I simply say to the more than 6 million Missourians who I have had the absolute privilege of serving...

It has truly been the honor of my life to be your 57th Governor of the great State of Missouri.

God bless you...God bless the great state of Missouri...and God bless the United States of America.

On motion of Senator O'Laughlin, the Joint Session was dissolved and the Senators returned to the chamber where they were called to order by Senator Bean.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Senator Coleman introduced to the Senate, Joe Patterson; and Gaylon Erickson.

The President introduced to the Senate, his wife, Claudia Kehoe; and Elijah Mayfield.

On motion of Senator O'Laughlin, the Senate adjourned under the rules.

SENATE CALENDAR

TWELFTH DAY-THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

FORMAL CALENDAR

SECOND READING OF SENATE BILLS

SB 904-Coleman	SB 917-Hoskins
SB 905-Coleman	SB 918-Hoskins
SB 906-Coleman	SB 919-Koenig
SB 907-Carter	SB 920-Koenig
SB 908-Carter	SB 921-Koenig
SB 909-Carter	SB 922-Eigel
SB 910-Brown (26)	SB 923-Eigel
SB 911-Brown (26)	SB 924-Eigel
SB 912-Brown (26)	SB 925-Crawford and Bean
SB 913-McCreery	SB 926-Crawford
SB 914-McCreery	SB 927-Crawford
SB 915-McCreery	SB 928-Cierpiot
SB 916-Hoskins	SB 929-Cierpiot

SB 930-Cierpiot	SB 975-Fitzwater
SB 931-Arthur	SB 976-Fitzwater
SB 932-Arthur	SB 977-Trent
SB 933-Arthur	SB 978-Trent
SB 934-Bernskoetter	SB 979-Trent
SB 935-Bernskoetter	SB 980-Black
SB 936-Bernskoetter	SB 981-Black
SB 937-Brown (16)	SB 982-Black
SB 938-Brown (16)	SB 983-Schroer
SB 939-Brown (16)	SB 984-Schroer
SB 940-Luetkemeyer	SB 985-Schroer
SB 941-Luetkemeyer	SB 986-Coleman
SB 942-Luetkemeyer	SB 987-Coleman
SB 943-May	SB 988-Coleman
SB 944-May	SB 989-Carter
SB 945-May	SB 990-Carter
SB 946-Thompson Rehder	SB 991-Carter
SB 947-Thompson Rehder	SB 992-Brown (26)
SB 948-Brattin	SB 993-Brown (26)
SB 949-Brattin	SB 994-Brown (26)
SB 950-Brattin	SB 995-McCreery
SB 951-Moon	SB 996-McCreery
SB 952-Moon	SB 997-McCreery
SB 953-Moon	SB 998-Hoskins
SB 954-Eslinger	SB 999-Hoskins
SB 955-Eslinger	SB 1000-Hoskins
SB 956-Eslinger	SB 1001-Koenig
SB 957-Bean	SB 1002-Koenig
SB 958-Bean	SB 1003-Koenig
SB 959-Beck	SB 1004-Eigel
SB 960-Beck	SB 1005-Eigel
SB 962-Razer	SB 1006-Eigel
SB 963-Razer	SB 1007-Crawford
SB 964-Razer	SB 1008-Crawford
SB 965-Roberts	SB 1009-Cierpiot
SB 966-Roberts	SB 1010-Cierpiot
SB 967-Roberts	SB 1011-Cierpiot
SB 968-Washington	SB 1012-Arthur
SB 969-Washington	SB 1013-Arthur
SB 970-Washington	SB 1014-Arthur
SB 971-Mosley	SB 1015-Bernskoetter
SB 972-Mosley	SB 1016-Bernskoetter
SB 973-Mosley	SB 1017-Bernskoetter
SB 974-Fitzwater	SB 1018-Brown (16)

SB 1019-Brown (16)	SB 1063-Carter
SB 1020-Luetkemeyer	SB 1064-Carter
SB 1021-May	SB 1065-Carter
SB 1022-May	SB 1066-Brown (26)
SB 1023-May	SB 1067-Brown (26)
SB 1024-Brattin	SB 1068-Brown (26)
SB 1025-Brattin	SB 1069-McCreery
SB 1026-Brattin	SB 1070-McCreery
SB 1027-Moon	SB 1071-McCreery
SB 1028-Moon	SB 1072-Hoskins
SB 1029-Moon	SB 1073-Hoskins
SB 1030-Eslinger	SB 1074-Hoskins
SB 1031-Eslinger	SB 1075-Koenig
SB 1032-Eslinger	SB 1076-Koenig
SB 1033-Beck	SB 1077-Koenig
SB 1034-Beck	SB 1078-Cierpiot
SB 1035-Beck	SB 1079-Cierpiot
SB 1036-Razer	SB 1080-Arthur
SB 1037-Razer	SB 1081-Arthur
SB 1038-Razer	SB 1082-Arthur
SB 1039-Roberts	SB 1083-May
SB 1040-Roberts	SB 1084-Brattin
SB 1041-Roberts	SB 1085-Brattin
SB 1042-Washington	SB 1086-Brattin
SB 1043-Washington	SB 1087-Moon
SB 1044-Washington	SB 1088-Moon
SB 1045-Mosley	SB 1089-Moon
SB 1046-Mosley	SB 1090-Eslinger
SB 1047-Mosley	SB 1091-Eslinger
SB 1048-Fitzwater	SB 1092-Eslinger
SB 1049-Fitzwater	SB 1093-Beck
SB 1050-Fitzwater	SB 1094-Beck
SB 1051-Trent	SB 1095-Razer
SB 1052-Trent	SB 1096-Roberts
SB 1053-Trent	SB 1097-Roberts
SB 1054-Black	SB 1098-Roberts
SB 1055-Black	SB 1099-Washington
SB 1056-Black	SB 1100-Washington
SB 1057-Schroer	SB 1101-Washington
SB 1058-Schroer	SB 1102-Mosley
SB 1059-Schroer	SB 1103-Mosley
SB 1060-Coleman	SB 1104-Mosley
SB 1061-Coleman	SB 1105-Fitzwater
SB 1062-Coleman	SB 1106-Fitzwater

SB 1107-Fitzwater	SB 1153-Mosley
SB 1108-Trent	SB 1154-Mosley
SB 1109-Trent	SB 1155-Mosley
SB 1110-Trent	SB 1156-Fitzwater
SB 1111-Black	SB 1157-Fitzwater
SB 1112-Black	SB 1158-Fitzwater
SB 1113-Black	SB 1159-Trent
SB 1114-Schroer	SB 1160-Trent
SB 1115-Schroer	SB 1161-Trent
SB 1116-Schroer	SB 1162-Black
SB 1117-Coleman	SB 1163-Black
SB 1118-Coleman	SB 1164-Black
SB 1119-Coleman	SB 1165-Schroer
SB 1120-Carter	SB 1166-Schroer
SB 1123-Brown (26)	SB 1167-Coleman
SB 1124-Brown (26)	SB 1168-Coleman
SB 1125-Brown (26)	SB 1169-Coleman
SB 1126-McCreery	SB 1170-Carter
SB 1127-McCreery	SB 1172-Brown (26)
SB 1128-McCreery	SB 1173-McCreery
SB 1129-Hoskins	SB 1174-McCreery
SB 1130-Hoskins	SB 1175-McCreery
SB 1131-Hoskins	SB 1176-Hoskins
SB 1132-Koenig	SB 1177-Hoskins
SB 1133-Koenig	SB 1178-Hoskins
SB 1134-Koenig	SB 1179-Koenig
SB 1135-Arthur	SB 1180-Koenig
SB 1136-Arthur	SB 1181-Koenig
SB 1137-Arthur	SB 1182-Arthur
SB 1138-Brattin	SB 1183-Arthur
SB 1139-Brattin	SB 1184-Arthur
SB 1140-Brattin	SB 1185-Brattin
SB 1141-Moon	SB 1186-Moon
SB 1142-Moon	SB 1187-Moon
SB 1143-Moon	SB 1188-Moon
SB 1144-Eslinger	SB 1189-Eslinger
SB 1145-Eslinger	SB 1190-Eslinger
SB 1146-Eslinger	SB 1191-Roberts
SB 1147-Roberts	SB 1192-Roberts
SB 1148-Roberts	SB 1193-Roberts
SB 1149-Roberts	SB 1194-Washington
SB 1150-Washington	SB 1195-Washington
SB 1151-Washington	SB 1196-Washington
SB 1152-Washington	SB 1197-Mosley

SB 1198-Mosley	SB 1242-Washington
SB 1199-Trent	SB 1243-Washington
SB 1200-Trent	SB 1244-Hoskins
SB 1201-Trent	SB 1245-Thompson Rehder
SB 1202-Black	SB 1246-Thompson Rehder
SB 1203-Coleman	SB 1247-Black
SB 1204-McCreery	SB 1248-Brown (16)
SB 1205-McCreery	SB 1249-Black
SB 1206-McCreery	SB 1250-Koenig
SB 1207-Hoskins	SB 1251-Crawford
SB 1208-Koenig	SB 1252-Thompson Rehder
SB 1209-Arthur	SB 1253-Thompson Rehder
SB 1210-Arthur	SB 1254-Razer
SB 1211-Arthur	SB 1255-Razer
SB 1212-Moon	SB 1256-Carter
SB 1213-Moon	SB 1257-Fitzwater
SB 1214-Moon	SB 1258-Fitzwater
SB 1215-Roberts	SB 1259-Fitzwater
SB 1216-Washington	SB 1260-Gannon
SB 1217-Washington	SB 1261-Carter
SB 1218-Washington	SB 1262-Bean
SB 1219-Trent	SB 1263-Roberts
SB 1220-Trent	SB 1264-Fitzwater
SB 1221-Trent	SB 1265-Crawford
SB 1222-Arthur	SB 1266-Luetkemeyer
SB 1223-Arthur	SB 1267-Schroer
SB 1224-Moon	SB 1268-Schroer
SB 1225-Moon	SB 1269-Schroer
SB 1226-Moon	SB 1270-Schroer
SB 1227-Washington	SB 1271-Schroer
SB 1228-Washington	SB 1272-Schroer
SB 1229-Washington	SB 1273-Schroer
SB 1230-Trent	SB 1274-Schroer
SB 1231-Trent	SB 1275-Black
SB 1232-Trent	SB 1276-Hough
SB 1233-Moon	SB 1277-Black
SB 1234-Moon	SB 1278-May
SB 1235-Washington	SB 1279-May
SB 1236-Washington	SB 1280-Cierpiot
SB 1237-Washington	SB 1281-Bernskoetter
SB 1238-Washington	SB 1282-Bernskoetter
SB 1239-Washington	SB 1283-Bernskoetter
SB 1240-Washington	SB 1284-Trent
SB 1241-Washington	SB 1285-Schroer

SB 1286-Bernskoetter	SB 1330-Schroer
SB 1287-Crawford	SB 1331-Koenig
SB 1288-Brattin	SB 1332-Roberts
SB 1289-Carter	SB 1333-Roberts
SB 1290-Carter	SB 1334-Eigel
SB 1291-Carter	SB 1335-McCreery
SB 1292-Crawford	SB 1336-Thompson Rehder
SB 1293-Gannon	SB 1337-Coleman
SB 1294-Williams	SB 1338-Fitzwater
SB 1295-Razer	SB 1340-Bernskoetter
SB 1296-O'Laughlin	SB 1341-Schroer
SB 1297-Bean	SB 1342-Arthur
SB 1298-Bean	SB 1343-Arthur
SB 1299-Bean	SB 1344-Mosley
SB 1300-Bean	SB 1345-Mosley
SB 1301-Bean	SB 1346-Trent
SB 1302-Koenig	SB 1347-Trent
SB 1303-Schroer	SB 1348-Crawford
SB 1304-Schroer	SB 1349-Crawford
SB 1305-Beck	SB 1350-Luetkemeyer
SB 1306-Bean	SB 1351-Luetkemeyer
SB 1307-Eigel	SB 1352-Luetkemeyer
SB 1308-Brown (26)	SB 1353-Brown (16)
SB 1309-Trent	SB 1354-Cierpiot
SB 1310-Trent	SB 1355-Williams
SB 1311-Trent	SB 1356-Williams
SB 1312-Rowden	SB 1357-Thompson Rehder
SB 1313-Luetkemeyer	SB 1358-Thompson Rehder
SB 1314-Fitzwater	SB 1359-Trent
SB 1315-Fitzwater	SB 1360-Brown (16)
SB 1316-Cierpiot	SB 1361-Brown (16)
SB 1317-Gannon	SJR 48-Hoskins
SB 1318-Moon	SJR 49-Koenig
SB 1319-Moon	SJR 50-Koenig
SB 1320-Moon	SJR 51-Eigel
SB 1321-McCreery	SJR 52-Eigel
SB 1322-Crawford	SJR 53-Eigel
SB 1323-Mosley	SJR 54-Cierpiot
SB 1324-McCreery	SJR 55-Cierpiot
SB 1325-McCreery	SJR 56-Cierpiot
SB 1326-McCreery	SJR 57-Arthur
SB 1327-McCreery	SJR 58-Luetkemeyer
SB 1328-McCreery	SJR 59-Brattin
SB 1329-Schroer	SJR 60-Brattin

SJR 61-Moon
SJR 62-Moon
SJR 63-Moon
SJR 64-Eslinger
SJR 65-Washington
SJR 66-Washington
SJR 67-Mosley
SJR 68-Mosley
SJR 69-Mosley
SJR 70-Fitzwater
SJR 71-Black
SJR 72-Schroer

SJR 73-Schroer
SJR 74-Coleman
SJR 75-Carter
SJR 76-Carter
SJR 77-Carter
SJR 78-Brown (26)
SJR 79-Brown (26)
SJR 80-Moon
SJR 81-Carter
SJR 82-Brattin
SJR 83-Eigel

SENATE BILLS FOR PERFECTION

SB 748-Hough

SB 727-Koenig, with SCS

INFORMAL CALENDAR

RESOLUTIONS

SR 557-Eigel
SR 558-Eigel
SR 561-Moon
SR 562-Moon

SR 563-Moon
SR 627-Beck
HCR 37-Patterson (O'Laughlin)

To be Referred

SCR 24-Coleman
SCR 25-Eigel

SCR 26-McCreery
SCR 27-Arthur

✓