



From the House...

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Week Five in the Missouri House



Crocker H.S. Government Class

Week five was another busy one in the state's capitol. The week started in the best way that it could for me, with visitors from the district coming to see their capitol. Mr. Richardson's High School Government Class came to Jefferson City to get a better understanding of how their state government worked. During their visit they had the opportunity to tour the capitol and I was able to take them into the House Chamber where we visited

about some of the issues facing our state and nation. What a great group of young people they are.

On Monday evening I co-chaired a Joint Committee Hearing in the Senate of the House and Senate Veteran's Committees. It was again great to see so many friends from both the district and across the state as they came to the capitol go voice their concerns about veterans' issues our state is facing. I look forward to addressing many of those this session as we begin work in that committee.

During the week a wide variety of things were worked on, both in committee and on the floor. In the Ethics Committee I am a member of we continued work on ethics reform. This week we heard the final four bills that have been filed concerning ethics rules changes, next week we have two working sessions planned where we will begin actually casting votes and crafting the legislation which will go to the House Floor in a few weeks.

In another committee I serve on we passed the Health Care Freedom Act out and now it will go to the House Floor for full debate. If this act is adopted by both the House and Senate, it will allow Missourians to vote on it, and if passed will protect our right to buy health insurance and seek medical treatment as we wish, regardless of what might be passed now or in the future by the federal government.

On the House Floor we addressed one of the issues that I have been contacted about numerous times since first being elected, welfare recipients that are abusing drugs at the expense of taxpayers. This week we passed, by a vote of 113-40 House Bill 1377. This legislation will require anyone suspected of using illegal drugs that is also on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to take a drug test. If they are found to be using illegal drugs, they will have the option of entering a drug rehab program through the Department of Social Services. If they enter the program and complete it, and continue to stay drug-free, they will continue to receive their assistance. However, if they do not enter the program or do not complete it, they will be dropped from the welfare rolls.

I feel we have an obligation to help those who are truly in need and those that can't help themselves. However, I also feel that I have an obligation to protect the hard-



Rep. Day with members of the Gascosage Board of Directors

earned taxpayer dollars that we are in charge of from abuse, and allowing someone to use those dollars to subsidize their use of illegal drugs is without a doubt, abuse.

Also visiting the capitol this week were the Rural Electric Coops and the County Commissioners from across the state. It is always an honor to welcome them to the capitol and have a chance to visit about the issues they are facing as they strive to serve citizens in their areas. It was especially nice to have the opportunity to welcome our new Presiding Commissioner, Don McCulloch to the capitol.



Rep. Day with Commissioners Don McCulloch and Ricky Zweerink

As always, I hope you will contact me anytime I can be of service. My office number is (573) 751-1446, my e-mail address is david.day@house.mo.gov and you can find me online at www.StateRepDay.com. I would also mention that if you would like to receive these reports and press releases through e-mail, you can also sign up to do that at my website.