



# From the House...

**State Rep. David Day**

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## Committees

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Veterans Committee

### Vice Chairman

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### Member

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Licensing

Joint Committee on Terrorism,  
Bioterrorism, and Homeland  
Security

Government Accountability  
and Ethics Reform

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## Half-Time in the Missouri Legislature

The gavel has fallen on the first half of this legislative session and we are now on Spring Break for one week. It seems like just last week we were all lining the halls of the Capitol and preparing for this year's session. We began pre-filing bills, conducting committee meetings and before we knew it, we were passing legislation on the floor. We hit the ground running and we will do the same when we return for the remainder of session after spring break.

One of the most important issues we are working on is the economy and trying to boost job growth in Missouri. Early this session we passed HB 1675 to the Senate which is legislation that seeks to create manufacturing jobs in our state, which will have a great influence on job growth. States all over the nation are competing with us for jobs, and we must do everything we can to not only keep our jobs from leaving, but to gain all of the jobs we can.



Visitors with the Dental Assoc. Dr. George Bailey and Dr. Roger James

We also rejected the recommendation of a tax adjust by the Missouri Tax Commission. While their recommendation lowered the tax rate on some agriculture property, it also raised it up to 29% on other farmland. Farming is a connected industry and what hurts our friends in the row crop business hurts all of us, especially since livestock producers are the biggest buyers of grain. Now is not the time to raise taxes on the people that are responsible for feeding not just America, but much of the world.

Another bill that we passed to the Senate is HB 1377. This is the legislation that will require anyone suspected of using illegal drugs and is receiving state assistance to take a drug test. If they test positive for illegal drugs, they are given the opportunity to enter a drug program, if they choose not to they will lose their assistance for one year. Missourians work hard for their money and when their tax dollars are supposed to be going to help others, it should not be going to help them buy illegal drugs. Literally hundreds of you have contacted me about this legislation with a similar comment...*"it's about time"*.

In response to some of the actions in Washington, D.C., the House of Representatives has passed two specific pieces of legislation. The first is HCR 34 & 35 which is an official message from the MO General Assembly to our federal elected officials asking them to adopt a Balanced Budget Amendment at the federal level. The second is HJR 57 which if passed by the Senate will put before the voters of Missouri what is being called the Health Care Freedom Act. This constitutional amendment, if adopted, will protect the health care choices of Missourians.

The last piece of legislation we have worked on that I will mention is the passage of HB 1498. This is the legislation that will mandate that health insurance companies in Missouri pay health care providers within 45 days of their claim. Any business owner will tell you that one of the things that drive up the cost of doing business is if they have large amounts of money out that they are waiting to collect. This is an effort, in the limited way we can at the state level, to start addressing the cost of health care. The subject has been talked about a great deal in Washington, no matter what side of the issue you are on, I believe most will agree that almost nothing has been accomplished.



*4-H Visitors Julia Witthaus, Jessica Gifford,  
and Sandy Dorsey*

These are just a few of the issues we have been working on this first half of session. Next week we will be back in session and some of the hardest issues will start being debated, issues like the budget process that we are working on in various committees at the time.

I hope that if I can be of assistance you will contact me at (573) 751-1446, by e-mail at [david.day@house.mo.gov](mailto:david.day@house.mo.gov) or through the website at [www.StateRepDay.com](http://www.StateRepDay.com). Thank you for the honor of serving you in our state's capitol.