



**State Representative
Mark A. Sharp
District 37**

Dear Neighbor,

I was extremely pleased that the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved my two highest priorities to improve public safety:

-Blair's Law to help deter the increased amount of deadly celebratory and indiscriminate gunfire that plagues KCMO and numerous other cities throughout the state by making unlawful discharge of a firearm with criminal negligence within or into any city limits a serious state offense instead of just a city ordinance violation; and

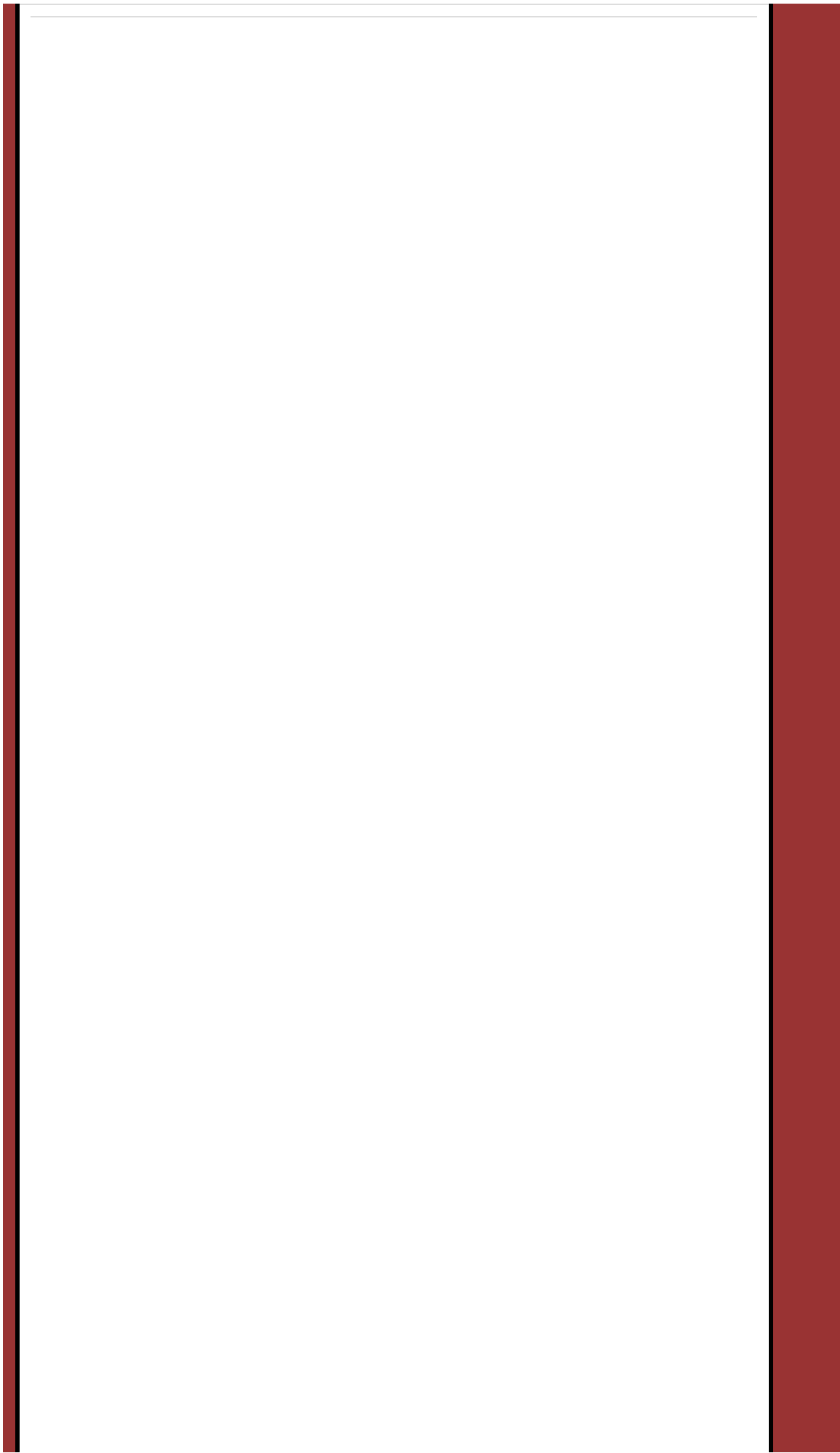
-Legislation to eliminate the non-competitive and out-of-date salary caps for all ranks of Kansas City police officers that have made it difficult for our understaffed police department to recruit and retain enough officers to keep our neighborhoods safer by improving often lengthy police response times to 911

calls and increasing police visibility and to have sufficient officers to quickly and thoroughly investigate homicides and all other violent crimes so persistent violent offenders can be apprehended and successfully prosecuted before they can hurt more victims.

This legislation also removes the discriminatory language in current state law that prohibits hiring a police chief who is over 60 years of age, regardless of their qualifications, as if the chief is going to chase a suspect down on foot to arrest them.

Time was running out for passage of these individual bills, but with the help of other legislators in the Missouri House and Missouri Senate we were able to add several pieces of legislation to Senate Bill 189, an omnibus anti-crime bill that passed the General Assembly with only one day left in this year's regular legislative session before it adjourned on May 12.

Hopefully this legislation will help us reduce our horrendous per capita homicide rate which is one of the highest in the country. In 2020, KCMO set a new all-time record for homicides with 179. As of today, we have only had one less homicide this year (59) than at the same time that year (60). We must do better!





I was joined last Thursday by my friend, Michele Shanahan DeMoss who is the mother of Blair Shanahan Lane who was tragically killed on 4th of July in 2011 by celebratory gunfire. Michele has been working on "Blair's law" since 2011 and I've been working with her since my first year in the House in 2020. It was a historic day and many of us were so glad she was present in the Senate chamber as a final vote was taken on Senate Bill 189, passing with 30 yes votes and 4 no's.

WEEKLY CAPITOL UPDATE

Monday, May 15th, 2023

POST-PARTUM CARE COVERAGE EXPANDED

The Senate on May 8 voted 26-1 to grant final passage to legislation expanding coverage for post-partum care under Medicaid from 60 days following a pregnancy to one year.

The House of Representatives had approved the bill - which includes several other provisions related to health care generally and women's health in particular - the previous week on a vote of 119-23, with four members

voting present.

Democratic lawmakers have pushed for expanded post-partum coverage for years in an effort to combat Missouri's rising maternal mortality rate. Majority Republicans took up the cause this session after the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion last summer, allowing a Missouri law to take effect that bans the procedure in nearly all circumstances.

With abortion no longer an option for many Missourians, the demand for post-partum care is expected to significantly increase.

Senate Bill 106, sponsored by Sen. Lauren Arthur, D-Kansas City, also prohibits health care providers from performing prostate, anal or pelvic examinations on an anesthetized or unconscious patient without the patient's advance permission. In addition, the bill bars insurers from imposing cost-sharing requirements for diagnostic breast examinations, supplemental breast examinations or mammography screenings.

Another important provision, added by the House to the wide-ranging bill, ends the "cliff effect" that strips participants in the welfare, food stamp or child care subsidy programs of their benefits if they start earning too much money from their job to qualify. The bill creates transitional benefits to allow working recipients to continue receiving some assistance until

they earn enough to be self-sufficient.

BILLS AIMED AT TRANSGENDER MINORS PASS

The House of Representatives on May 10 sent a pair of bills to the governor making it illegal to provide gender-affirming health care to transgender minors and prohibiting transgender athletes from competing on a sports team that doesn't correspond with their birth gender.

The bills were a top priority for Missouri Republicans as part of a national movement among GOP-controlled states to enact laws targeting transgender residents.

Senate Bill 49 would ban gender-affirming surgery for minors, which currently only happens in rare situations, and also outlaw the use of puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy for transitioning minors. Those who have already started transitioning when the bill is slated to take effect on Aug. 28 would be exempt from the latter restriction. The House voted 108-50 in favor of the bill.

Senate Bill 39 would prohibit public and private schools from allowing transgender athletes to compete on sports teams that correspond with their gender identity at any level from kindergarten through college. The House passed it on a vote of 109-49, with one member voting present.

As part of a compromise brokered when the Senate originally approved the bills in March, the restrictions on athletic participation and the limits on puberty-blocking drugs and hormone therapy are set to expire in 2027 unless lawmakers later renew them. Gov. Mike Parson is expected to sign both measures into law.

SOCIAL SECURITY EXEMPTED FROM TAXES

The House of Representatives on May 8 voted 154-2 to grant final passage to legislation fully exempting Social Security benefits from state income taxes.

The bill, which will cost the state an estimated \$318.77 million a year in lost revenue, also authorizes counties to provide a homestead property tax credit to senior citizens.

Existing state law already exempts Social Security benefits from taxation for most Missourians - those who earn less than \$85,000 for an individual, or \$100,000 for a married couple filing jointly. Senate Bill 190 would extend the exemption to higher-income recipients.

Another provision of the bill would authorize individual counties to establish a tax credit that eligible senior citizens could claim on property taxes owed on a home that they both own and live in as their primary residence. Counties could establish the

credit either by enacting an ordinance or putting the matter on the local ballot for voter approval.

The Senate approved the SB 190 in April on a vote of 33-1. Since the House made no changes to it, the bill was sent to the governor for his consideration.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING BANNED FOR ALL

Texting while driving would be illegal for motorists of all ages under legislation sent to the governor on May 10 by votes of 97-40 with 12 members voting present in the House of Representatives and 26-7 in the Senate.

Under existing law, texting while driving is prohibited only for drivers under age 21.

In addition to imposing a broader prohibition on texting while driving, Senate Bill 398 would bar drivers from talking on a cell phone when behind the wheel unless using hands-free technology or making a call to report an emergency situation.

Police would be prohibited from stopping motorists solely for using an electronic device, but could issue a citation if the stop is for another offense or an accident is involved. Until Jan. 1, 2025, officers could only issue warnings. After that, a violation would be an infraction punishable by a maximum fine of \$150 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense within a two-year period and \$500 for a third or subsequent

offense in a two-year period.

SB 398 also would require car dealers to collect sales taxes on motor vehicle purchases at the point of sale.

Under existing law, the sales tax is paid when the owner licenses the vehicle with the state. To avoid paying the tax, however, some vehicle owners continue driving on the temporary tags they receive from the dealer long after the tags have expired.

OPEN AIR



JOB FAIR



MAY 17
3PM - 6PM

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HARD TO RECYCLE CLEAN UP

**Sat., May 20
8 A.M. - Noon**

Manual Career Tech Center - 1215 E Truman Rd, Kansas City, MO 64106

ELECTRONICS (ANYTHING WITH A
CIRCUIT BOARD AND A PLUG INCLUDING
FREON CONTAINING ITEMS)

- CRT Monitors = \$5.00 each
- CRT TV's 26" or less = \$30.00 each
- CRT TV's 27" or greater = \$50.00 each
- Wood Console and True Big
Screen/Projection TV's = \$50.00 each
- LED/LCD/Plasma TV'S = \$20.00 each
- Any Freon containing unit = \$10.00 each

TIRES (WITH OR WITHOUT RIM)

DOCUMENT SHREDDER (ON-SITE)

LEAF/BRUSH

BULKY ITEMS/TRASH

GLASS



For more information:
Call Robert Woods at 816-513-8442





4TH ANNUAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 2, 2023
1:00 PM SHOTGUN START

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submit your
request



contact us at 913-371-9298 if you have
questions



Understanding and Accessing MISSOURI MEDICAID

More Missourians than ever now qualify for Medicaid expansion, including parents who have not qualified before, and adults without children. Learn to see if you qualify for Medicaid and how to apply.

Am I eligible?		How do I apply?	
Medicaid eligibility depends primarily on the size of your household and your gross monthly household income (before taxes and deductions). If your monthly income is lower than the number of people living in your home, you may qualify .		GOOD NEWS! Applying is easy, and there are several convenient and accessible ways to do it!	
		Online: Visit https://mydss.mo.gov/healthcare/apply to apply quickly via the DHSS web portal	
1	\$1,481	By Phone: Call the Missouri Family Support Division at (855)-373-4636 or (855)-373-9994	
2	\$2,003	By Mail or Email: Print and fill out an application provided at the web address listed above and mail to:	
3	\$2,525	Family Support Division 615 E 13th St Kansas City, MO 64106	
4	\$3,048	Or email to: FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov	
5	\$3,570		
6	\$4,092		

KIDS EAT FREE

AGES
18 AND
UNDER

WHILE
SUPPLIES
LAST

MEAL DISTRIBUTION

- CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT -

**UNITED BELIEVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
5600 E. 112 TERRACE, KCMO 64134**

FRIDAY'S 3PM - 6PM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 314.701.7245 OR EMAIL US
AT KIDSEATFREE@INFLUENCECHURCH.COM

**THIS SITE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER*



South KC Food Pantries

South Kansas City is fortunate to have several food pantries to help less-fortunate residents have enough healthy food to eat. These include:

Community Assistance Council, 10901 Blue Ridge Blvd. on the

north end of the Ruskin High School campus, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Persons should call 816-763-3277, ext. 100, or email info@cackc.org for appointments or questions.

Red Bridge Area Food Pantry, 100 W. Red Bridge Rd. in the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, from 10 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday each month. Persons must call 816-908-7800 for appointments by the prior Wednesday.

Harvesters (the community food network) brings the semi-truck that serves as its mobile food pantry to seven sites in south Kansas City monthly to distribute fresh produce and other healthy food to families in need. The sites are:

Center School District, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. as long as food is left on the first Saturday of the month. Persons should drive through the bus parking lot to the district warehouse. The event is sponsored by Three Trails Community church in partnership with the Center School District.

Center District Warehouse, 8701 Holmes Rd., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Friday of each month. Persons should go to the entrance to the Center Administrative Office and drive through the bus parking lot to the warehouse where volunteers will load the food. Persons should take the Troost Ave exit. The event is sponsored by the Center Education Foundation in partnership with the Center School District.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Persons may remain in their vehicles, and food will be brought to them.

United Believers Community Church, 5600 E. 112th Terr., with vehicles lining up at 8:30 a.m. and contactless food distribution running from 9 to 11 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month.

Ruskin High School, 7000 E. 111th St., from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Vehicles should line up on Ruskin Way on the east side of the school, and staff and students will load the food when vehicles reach the school.

Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. and food distribution running from about 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Families are asked to bring two cardboard boxes for volunteers to put the food in.

Red Bridge United Methodist Church, 636 E. 117th St., from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in the church parking lot.

Serve and Lift Center – South KC, 8001 Longview Rd., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Walk-in, call for an appointment or order online at <https://catholiccharities-kcsj.org/pantry/>



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**Please don't hesitate to contact me
with any feedback, questions or
ideas!**