



MASW 2012 legislative advocate!



January 17, 2012

What Are You Prepared To Do? **Social Justice Under Attack at State Capitol**

Rollback of Workplace Discrimination Protection is Senate's First Bill

The 2102 session is just a few days old – the Governor hasn't even had his "State of the State Address" or submitted his budget – and already the Senate has the latest version of the bill to rollback protections against workplace discrimination on its [Calendar](#) to be debated and passed.

This year's version is [SB 592](#). Last year, [Governor Jay Nixon](#) vetoed a similar bill, [SB 188](#), after MASW and many other organizations urged him to do so.

These bills would make it more difficult for the [Missouri Commission on Human Rights](#) to protect us from discrimination in the workplace. [Please contact your State Senator](#) and ask him or her to vote NO on SB 592.

Alabama-Style Anti-Immigrant Bill Scheduled for Hearing Today

At 3:00 p.m. today the [Senate Committee on General Laws](#) will hear [SB 590](#), which would copy [Alabama's ill-conceived law](#), requiring school teachers to check their "foreign looking" students for immigration status documents, and requiring local police to do the same every time they make a traffic stop.

If you see your Senator among the [members of this committee](#), please contact her or him and urge a NO vote on SB 590.

Good News: MASW Priority Bills Introduced on Two Issues

[Rep. Bob Nance](#) is again sponsoring a bill to opt Missouri out of the [lifetime ban for food stamp eligibility](#) for people who have a drug felony on their record. All other felons, after serving their sentence, are eligible for food stamps, but not if the felony was drug-related. Most states have opted out of this ban, and Rep. Nance's [HB 1238](#) would do the same for Missouri.

There is more information on this bill, and its companion in the Senate, [SB 522](#), filed by [Sen. Kiki Curls](#), on MASW's website, and the hyperlinks in this update will link there.

Meanwhile, [Rep. Mary Still](#) has filed her annual attempt to [reform the payday loan industry](#). This year's version is [HB 1294](#). There is an [initiative petition](#) effort underway to enact these reforms by a direct vote of the people.

Bad News: Early Hearings for TABOR and SNAP Photo ID

[SB 474](#), to require [Photo ID on the cards used for SNAP](#) (food stamps), has already been heard in Senate Committee. And [HJR 43, TABOR](#), is already on the [House Calendar](#) to be debated and passed! [TABOR would lock in the current underfunding](#) of all state services forever. [Contact your Representative](#) for a NO vote on HJR 43.