



MASW

Legislative Update 2009



January 30, 2009

MASW Priority: Quality Healthcare Gov. Nixon Promises Action

Governor Jay Nixon called for “providing quality, affordable health care for Missouri workers and children” in his first State of the State Address this week (1/27) and proposed a budget for Fiscal Year 2010 that would reduce the number of uninsured Missourians by extending coverage, beginning with 35,000 additional workers and 27,000 children.

Health coverage is also a key component of the Quality Jobs Act, of which MASW was a key promoter when it was enacted several years ago. Gov. Nixon noted, “The Quality Jobs Act has incentivized business owners to create thousands of high-paying jobs that offer health care. Good middle-class jobs. The Quality Jobs Act has worked. We must not only continue this program, we must expand it.”



[Gov. Jay Nixon](#)

Nixon also said, “Right now, we have far too many jobs in health care that we can’t fill right here in Missouri because we can’t find people with the right skills. We need nurses, pharmacy workers and rural health care workers. Filling those positions is critical to both our economy and our health care system. That’s why I’ve called for the creation and funding of the Caring for Missourians program - an initiative that will coordinate efforts between our two and four-year institutions to train our next generation of health care workers.”

You can view the entire State of State Address [by linking here](#), or read the [text here](#).

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[MASW’S 2009 POLICY PRIORITIES](#)

[LIST OF BILLS IN MO LEGISLATURE
OF INTEREST TO MASW](#)

Housing Trust Fund Bill Filed
See page 2...

Death Penalty Moratorium Bill
See page 2...

Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto

MASW Priority: Decent Housing

Sen. Justus Files Increase for Housing Trust Fund



[Sen. Jolie Justus](#), honored last year by MASW’s Kansas City Chapter for outstanding legislative support of social justice, is championing an increase in the fee that provides revenue for the Missouri Housing Trust Fund. Enactment of the law creating the MHTF some 15 years was one of the most significant achievements by MASW in our long history.

The fund provides millions of dollars each year to increase the availability of affordable housing, to help keep families in their homes, and to provide services to those who are homeless. The fee has not been increased since its inception, but the need has grown every year. In filing [SB 268](#), Sen. Justus seeks again this year to increase the fee.

MASW Priority: Fair Treatment

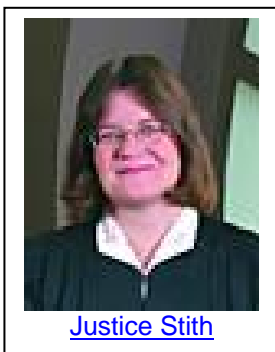
Rep. Deeken Offers Moratorium on Death Penalty

[Rep. Bill Deeken](#) introduced [HB 484](#) this week, which would halt executions in Missouri for two years while a blue-ribbon panel studies the death penalty for fairness. As in past years, the bill has strong bi-partisan support, with over 60 co-sponsors.

Rep. Deeken’s co-sponsors are Representatives McGhee, Stream, Schaaf, Tilley, Schlottach, Faith, Nance, Sander, Roorda, Talboy, Grisamore, Kelly, Scavuzzo, Quinn, Norr, McClanahan, Fallert, Harris, Meadows, Lampe, Aull, Atkins, Bruns, Holsman, Carter, Lair, Schupp, Nasheed, Curls, Kander, Hodges, Englund, LeBlanc, Wasch, Vogt, Sprent, Colona, Webber, Hughes, Walton Gray, Pace, Calloway, Rucker, Schoemehl, Webb, McDonald, Yaeger, Oxford, Morris, Chappelle-Nadal, Hoskins, El-Amin, Meiners, Storch, Brown (50), Low, Dougherty, Burnett, Schieffer, Jones (63), Kirkton, McNeil, Skaggs and Wright.



Chief Justice Stith Warns of Public Defender Crisis



In her [State of the Judiciary Address](#) this week, [Laura Denvir Stith](#), Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, said, “One measure of a society’s justice system is how well it handles the worst of citizens who come before it. Well, I hope there are other measures too, because of all states with statewide public defender systems, Missouri ranks dead last in per capita funding of public defenders.”

Creation of our state’s Public Defender system was an important accomplishment of MASW, and we agree with Judge Stith’s proposal, “We believe a substantial additional state commitment of resources is necessary.”