

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

*From the office of  
Representative Luke Scavuzzo  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 23, 2010**

Last week was a busy week here at the capitol. Several pieces of important legislation were passed out of the House by wide margins and six house appropriation committees started the hard task of making cuts to Governor Nixon's proposed operating budget.

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, the House gave final approval to Senate Concurrent Resolution 35 by a vote of 143-11. SCR35 was a Senate Resolution that rejected changes in agricultural land values recommended by the State Tax Commission. The State Tax Commission had recommended an increase to the most productive farmland and a decrease for the least productive farmland. The over all tax value of farmland would have gone up by about 11%. The commission's recommendation automatically would have taken effect on January 1, 2011 had the General Assembly not rejected the recommendation by March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Also on February 18<sup>th</sup> the House voted 135-18 to require state-regulated insurance companies to provide coverage for the treatment and diagnosis of children with autism. House Bill 1311 requires insurance policies to cover up to \$36,000 a year in therapy costs for autistic children age 18 and under. A similar bill was blocked last year, but strong support for autism coverage by Governor Nixon, the Senate and House Democrats got the leadership in the House to bring this bill to the floor for a vote. Now the bill goes to the Senate for their approval.

The first economic development bill received approval from the House last week. By a vote of 134-17 the House of Representatives voted in favor of tax breaks for companies that upgrade existing manufacturing facilities in Missouri. The bills primary purpose was to head off the potential closure of the Ford Motor Co.'s assembly plant in Claycomo. The Ford plant employs 3,700 people.

Today, February 23, is Cass County Day here at the Capitol. This is always well attended and I will follow up next week with a report on how the day went.

Also, last week the 2010 FFA State Officers were introduced to the General Assembly. I mention this because Cass County should be proud. The State FFA President is Samantha Warner from Archie. She addressed the assembly with a very inspiring speech. With young leaders like Samantha, our state will be in good hands in the future. Good Luck Samantha!

As always, it is an honor to be your voice here in Jefferson City.

Please feel free to contact me anytime. My contact information is: **Representative Luke Scavuzzo, House Post Office, Jefferson City, MO 65101; my phone number is: 573-751-4072; my e-mail address is [luke.scavuzzo@house.mo.gov](mailto:luke.scavuzzo@house.mo.gov).**

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