

NEWS RELEASE

From the Office of
Representative Luke Scavuzzo
124th District
573-751-4072

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2008

Legislative Update

First of all I would like to thank everyone who has returned the Survey I sent out several weeks ago. Your opinions on the issues are very valuable and important to me. I represent you, so I need to know how you feel on the issues facing our district and state.

There is a lot going on here at the Capitol this week. With only two weeks left, there is plenty of work to be done. The budget has to be passed by May 9th at 6:00 p.m. We should start working to finalize the budget sometime at the end of this week and most of next week.

Last week the House of Representatives rejected legislation to cut the base minimum wage for tipped workers to \$2.13 an hour from the current \$3.32 an hour. House Bill 1851 would have overturned part of a minimum wage ballot measure Missouri voters approved in 2006 with 76% support. The standard state minimum wage, which voters also increased, and that currently stands at \$6.65 an hour, would not have been affected by the bill.

Also last week, the House passed legislation to create a legal framework for labor negotiations between public school districts and teachers. House Bill 2059 passed 83-67 with one more “yes” vote than the minimum 82 needed to send the measure to the Senate.

The bill was prompted by a 2007 Supreme Court decision that found the state constitution guarantees government workers, including teachers, the right to collectively bargain with their employers. This decision struck down a 1947 ruling in which the court invented an exemption from bargaining rights for government workers despite the fact that no such exemption exists in the Constitution.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to serve you. 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.

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