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**DISTRICT 14** **ASHLEY AUNE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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**CAPITOL REPORT**

January 10, 2024



Hello All.,

I hope this email finds you well. Last week we kicked off the 2024 legislative session, and if I'm being honest, it started even more contentious than I anticipated.

The House began with Speaker Plocher giving an unusual opening day speech from the dais bragging about forcing women in Missouri to give birth, removing access to life-saving healthcare for trans kids, and taking away Missourians' ability to affect policy through ballot measures. The Senate began exactly how it ended last session: in complete disarray.

This week has been relatively calm (but still dysfunctional), and next week things will really heat up in the House when we hear the following bills in Emerging Issues on Wednesday 1/17 at 2PM:

**1520** - Removes the sunset clause on the bill passed last year that restricts gender affirming care for minors. The sunset was compromise language reached after years of negotiations, and Rep. Brad Hudson wants it gone.

**1519** - Allows hospitals and doctors to refuse gender affirming procedures without fear of civil suits. Which is absolutely ridiculous because I don't know a single hospital that has performed a medical procedure under duress or who would hire a doctor to provide gender affirming care if that doctor was morally opposed to it.

**1674** - Missouri's version of a bathroom bill. Not only is this bill incredibly poorly written, it makes no sense, and I cannot see how it could be enforced without some sort of genital inspection in every workplace in the state.

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit online testimony for any or all of these bills.

Heading into this session, I had pretty low expectations about how productive the legislature will be this year, and everything I've seen so far has confirmed my suspicions. Thanks for checking in. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can do for you.

Take Care,



**Representative Ashley Aune**

District 14 | (573) 751-3618

## Legislative Updates

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION GETS UNDERWAY WITH LOW EXPECTATIONS

The 2024 legislative session began Jan. 3 with Republican leaders trying to strike an optimistic tone but hardline conservatives in the Senate making it clear they intend to continue the obstructionism that led to historically low numbers of bills winning final passage in each of the last three years.

Although **Republicans hold supermajorities** in both chambers, **GOP infighting** has sharply limited their ability to enact legislation. The Senate hardliners first organized in 2021 as the Conservative Caucus but claimed heading into the 2023 session they were disbanding to instead work from within the larger Senate Republican Caucus. In practice, however, nothing changed and the **group continued block legislation supported by more mainstream Republicans.**

### GOVERNOR ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF FARMLAND

Gov. Mike Parson on Jan. 2 issued an executive order purporting to prohibit people and businesses from countries designated as foreign adversaries from purchasing agricultural land located within 10 miles of a military facility. However, the [governor's action](#) appears to be an **unconstitutional attempt to enact legislation via executive order.**

The issue of foreign ownership of Missouri farmland has been controversial for more than a decade. Missouri law prohibited any foreign ownership – regardless of whether an adversarial country was involved – until 2013 when the **Republican-controlled General Assembly overrode a veto** by then-Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, to repeal the ban. Smithfield Foods, which owns several large animal production facilities in Missouri,

For their part, Democratic lawmakers noted that the limited number of bills to win passage last year included several the party had long advocated for and earned bipartisan support. They look to build upon those successes this year to push for targeted tax relief for working families, bolster reproductive rights, improve public school teacher salaries and reduce violent crime by strengthening Missouri's lax gun laws, among other issues.

With an initiative petition being circulated to put a proposed amendment to the state constitution protecting abortion rights on the November ballot, **House Republicans said they will make a last-ditch effort to require supermajority approval** to ratify amendments. However, any changes proposed by lawmakers also would need to be approved by voters to take effect, and **voters in others states have proven resistant to limiting their own power.**

**pushed for the change and shortly thereafter was sold** to a Chinese company.

### **VETERAN ELECTED OFFICIALS PICKED FOR HIGHWAYS COMMISSION**

[Gov. Mike Parson](#) on Jan. 2 appointed former St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay and former state Sen. Dan Hegeman of St. Joseph to the Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commission, the independent governing authority for the state Department of Transportation.

Slay served an unprecedented four terms as St. Louis mayor, from 2001 to 2017. He currently is executive director of the St. Louis Regional Crime Commission. Hegeman served in Missouri House of Representatives from 1991-2002 and the state Senate from 2015-2022. Before leaving the legislature due to term limits, he was chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

## **Tax Credit for Physicians and PAs**



**APPLY BY JAN 31:**

A new income tax

credit has been authorized for **qualifying community-based** faculty physicians & physician assistant preceptors. Tax credits of \$1,000 will be given for each qualifying preceptorship, for a max of \$3,000.

 More info: [Health.Mo.Gov/living/families/primarycare/precept/](https://Health.Mo.Gov/living/families/primarycare/precept/)

## Community Events



### **PLATTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

We're partnering with [Harvesters - The Community Food Network](#) to host a Mobile Food Distribution. The event will take place Thursday, Jan. 11 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at our office (7925 NW 110th Street, Kansas City, MO).

Anyone is welcome and no proof of need is required. Food can also be picked up for other people.



### **SNOWMAN PAINTING**

Celebrate winter by creating a masterpiece! Follow easy, step-by-step instructions to create matching snowman paintings on canvas boards. This program is designed for children ages 5 to 12 and an accompanying adult. Please register participating children and adults only.



- Wednesday, January 10, 2024
- 3:00 - 4:30 pm
- [Green Hills Community Room 1 and 2](#)

### Age Group

5 to 12

## Health and Wellness



### [GET THE MISSOURI POISON CENTER APP](#)

The app contains important life-saving poison exposure information on 160+ substances commonly found in homes, classrooms and outdoors.

# Resources

## CONSTITUENT SERVICES

- [Apply for Medicaid](#)
- [Unclaimed Property](#)
- [IRS Free File: Do your Taxes for Free](#)
- [Missouri Housing Resources](#)
- [Report a Road Concern](#)

## HEALTH SERVICES

- [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#)
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [The Eldercare Locator](#)
- [Opioid Treatment Program Directory](#)
- [Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests](#)

## FOOD PANTRIES

- [Northland Assistance Center](#)
- [St. James Lutheran Church](#)

## WEATHER SHELTERS

- [Cooling Centers](#)
- [Crisis Cold Weather Shelters](#)

## PLATTE COUNTY LIBRARIES

- [Green Hills Library Center](#)
- [Parkville](#)
- [Riverside](#)