



February 9

Capitol Report

Hi, All,

I am thrilled to announce that the legislation I have been working on, aimed at expanding healthcare services for pregnant patients, has been scheduled for a public hearing in the Healthcare Reform Committee on Tuesday February 13, 2024. If this bill is signed into law, patients will have expanded access to childbirth doulas through health insurance reimbursement, which will be a game-changer for expectant mothers and their families. This legislation is a compliment to legislation signed into law last session that expands postpartum coverage to a full 12-month period. The passage of this bill will make a real difference in the lives of so many Missourians and will go a long way toward addressing maternal mortality and healthcare access disparities. This is also a bi-partisan effort as I will be presenting this legislation with Rep. Wendy Hausman (R, St. Charles County) and it has the support of Rep. Kent Haden (R, Calloway County) I am proud of this bi-partisan effort on behalf of Missourians. I am excited to share this journey with you as the bill moves forward. Here is the link to the bill information, if you'd like to review the bill and submit testimony for the public hearing: <https://house.mo.gov/bill.aspx?bill=HB2632&year=2024&code=R>

Also, this week and last week I got to visit with students, parents, administrators, and staff of Kansas City Public School District. While all of District 12 is in the Park Hill School District, I always welcome the opportunity to discuss my strong support for public education. It warms my heart to talk to young people who are visiting the Capitol to advocate for the issues that are important to them or connect the abstract idea of government in their lessons to the physical structures and people involved. If you and your family are planning a visit to the Capitol, please let my office know. I would love to see you while you are here if my schedule allows.

Lastly, this week I got the opportunity to attend Lincoln University's 99th Founders Day event. Lincoln is one of only 2 Historically Black College and Universities in Missouri. You can learn

more about Lincoln University, it's programs and its history here:
<https://www.lincolnu.edu/about-lincoln/index.html>.

Sincerely,



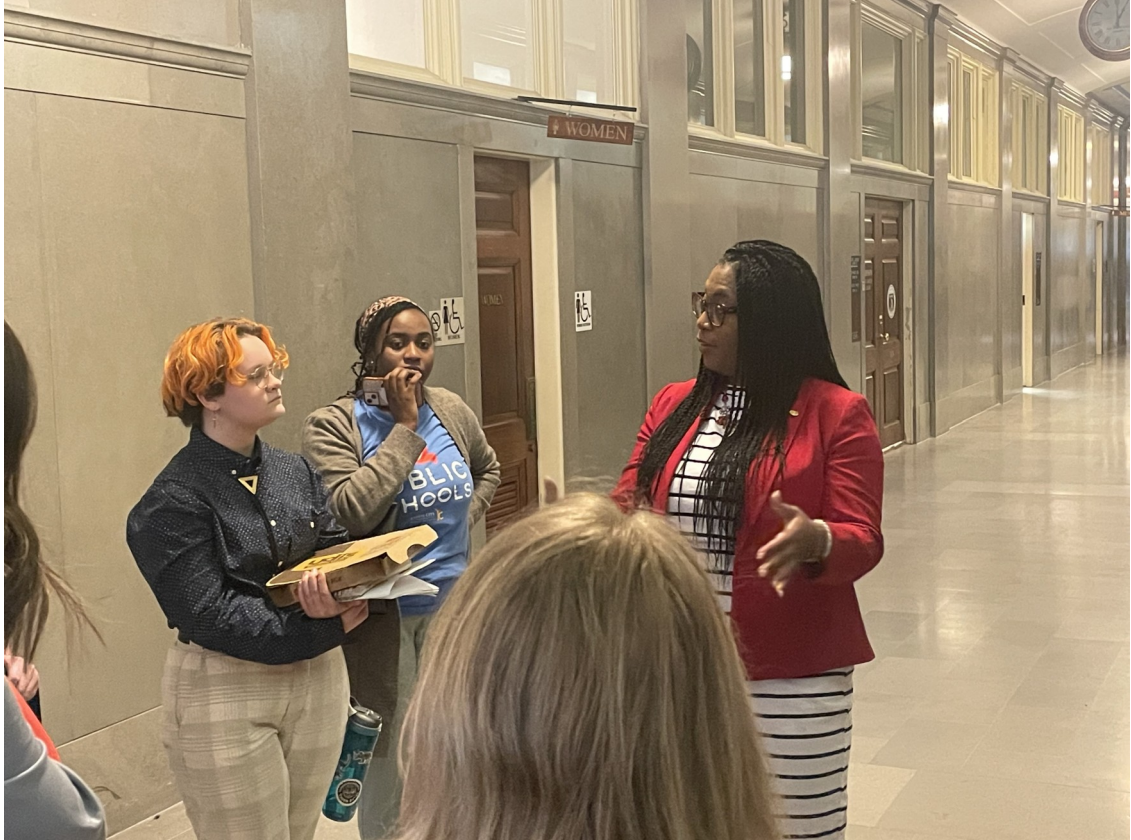
Jamie J. Johnson
Jamie J. Johnson

State Representative - District 12

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Pictures From This Week







State Rep. Jamie Johnson
Democrat
12th District
Caucus Policy Chair



For Immediate Release:
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Doula insurance bill to receive hearing Tuesday

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — State Rep. Jamie Johnson, D-Kansas City, will present a bill to the House Healthcare Reform Committee Tuesday that would allow doula services to receive reimbursement from health insurance providers.

House Bill 1446 would empower the Department of Health and Senior Services to create a registration process with the advice of stakeholders and experts that would allow doulas to be registered with the state so their clients can more affordably access their services.

"We know that when expectant mothers utilize doulas, it leads to demonstrably better health outcomes for both mother and baby," Johnson said. "In a state with a maternal mortality rate roughly 25 percent higher than the national average, we need every tool we can to safeguard Missouri mothers and save lives."

Doulas can play an important role before, during, and after the birthing process, offering much-needed emotional support, educating expectant families about non-medicinal pain management and natural birth progression. Doulas interpret medical jargon, fostering a decision-making environment grounded in a comprehensive understanding of the situation. While doulas do not explicitly deliver babies, a [2017 study from the World Health Organization](#) found that doulas can lead to shorter labor, reduced need for cesarian sections and pain medications and better mental health outlooks in the child birth experience.

Johnson sees her bill as a complimentary piece of legislation to last year's bill to extend Medicaid coverage for postpartum care to a full year after birth, which was passed by the Missouri General Assembly with broad bipartisan support and signed by the governor.

"This bill has the same goal as last year's Senate Bill 106, and I would love to see it receive the same level of support," Johnson said. "We all know we must do more to protect Missouri mothers, and increasing access to doula services will do just that."

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REP. JAMIE JOHNSON

Kansas City

2023-24 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Administration and Accounts
- Consent and House Procedure, Ranking Minority Member
- Emerging Issues
- Special Committee on Government Accountability
- Special Committee on Property Tax Reform



This Week in Jefferson City

House approves three new child care tax credit programs

The Missouri House of Representatives on Feb. 6 voted 113-39 to send legislation to the Senate creating three new tax credit programs to help reduce Missourians child care costs.

While support for the bill was bipartisan, only Republicans voted against the bill.

One program would allow taxpayers to claim a credit equal to 75 percent of a verified contribution to a child care provider. Another would grant employers who pay for child care for their employees a credit equal to up to 30 percent of its employer withholding tax. The final

program would allow child care providers to claim tax credits on their employer withholding tax and offset up to 30 percent of their capital improvement costs with credits.

According to the bill's official fiscal estimate, the new credits would cost the state a total of \$70 million a year in lost revenue. The legislation is House Bill 1488.

House panel approves effort to override court rulings on fees

The House Pensions Committee on Feb. 6 voted 8-0 in favor of a proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to circumvent Missouri Supreme Court precedent holding that surcharges imposed on court cases violate the open courts provision of the state constitution unless the revenue is used for judicial operations. The measure can now advance to the full House of Representatives for debate.

House Joint Resolution 92 would ask voters to amend the open courts provision to authorize court surcharges raising revenue for salaries and benefits for current and retired county sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys. While state Supreme Court precedent has prohibited levying court fees for non-judicial purposes for about 40 years, HJR 92 was specifically prompted by a 2021 decision striking down a \$3 surcharge on traffic offenses to provide funding for the Missouri Sheriff's Retirement System.

Although HJR 92's purpose is to authorize a funding source for law enforcement and local prosecutors that is currently deemed unconstitutional, the ballot language written into the measure by its sponsor instead asks voters if they want "to preserve funding of law enforcement personnel for the administration of justice" without mentioning that an unrestricted amount of new court fees could be imposed as result. If approved by both legislative chambers, HJR 92 automatically would go on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot for voter ratification.

Chief justice seeks better mental health care for defendants

Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Rhodes Russell on Feb. 7 asked state lawmakers to increase state funding for mental health programs for defendants jailed while awaiting trial. Russell made her comments during the 50th annual State of the Judiciary Address before a joint session of the General Assembly.

"Our jails have become the largest mental health facilities in our counties," Russell said. "But that is not how jails are designed, nor how their staff are trained. Jails should be used in the short term to detain people accused of crimes or found guilty of minor crimes. Concrete cell blocks are not conducive for treating mental health or addiction issues."

Russell also discussed the benefit of pretrial diversion programs for defendants who aren't jailed but require assistance with mental health issues. In addition, she asked for increased

legislative support for improving mental health services and security in juvenile detention centers.

Russell, who is in her 20th year on the state Supreme Court, is serving a rare second term as chief justice, a post that rotates among the court's seven members every two years. She previously was chief justice from 2013-2015. Only a few judges in the court's history have held the post twice.

State revenue collections down slightly so far in FY 2024

Year-to-date net state general revenue collections decreased 0.2 percent through the first seven months of the 2024 fiscal year compared to the same period in FY 2023, going from \$7.61 billion last year to \$7.59 billion this year, according to revenue data reported on Feb. 7 by the Missouri Division of Budget and Planning. Collections had been down 1.7 percent through the first six months of the fiscal year.

Net general revenue collections in January 2024 increased 6.3 percent compared to those for January 2023, going from \$1.37 billion last year to \$1.45 billion this year. Strong growth in sales and use tax collections helped offset a continuing decline in individual and corporate income taxes resulting from recently enacted cuts.

Although the original consensus revenue estimate for FY 2024 predicted revenue growth of 0.7 percent for the year, the latest revised estimate issued in December now predicts a 0.7 percent decline in collections by the time the fiscal year ends on June 30.

Scholarship Opportunity



The poster features a purple and yellow color scheme. On the right side, there is a photograph of the Missouri State Capitol dome. The text is arranged in sections: a top purple banner with a yellow border, a middle yellow section with a purple border, and a bottom purple section with a yellow border. A QR code is located in the middle yellow section.

Deadline:
March 22,
2024

Women Legislators of
Missouri Caucus

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Women Legislators of Missouri Caucus is excited to be offering 16, \$1000 college scholarships to young women across the state of Missouri that are hoping to continue their academic career by attending college. Interested students can apply at <http://bit.ly/molegwomen>

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- \$1000 Scholarship
- Recognition Ceremony at Missouri State Capitol

REQUIREMENTS:

- Female, Missouri resident
- 2024 graduating senior
- 500-word essay
- Excellence in leadership, academics, and community service

Scan the QR code for the application

Interested students can
apply at
<http://bit.ly/molegwomen>

CONTACT US

Representative Johnson 573-751-9760
Representative Gallick 573-751-1344

Fentanyl and NARCAN: Prevention through Education

Drug overdoses, both fatal and nonfatal, are the No. 1 cause of death among adults ages 18-44 in Missouri.

Learn how to identify an overdose, administer NARCAN®, the opioid overdose antidote, and save a life.

Attendees will receive a free two-dose naloxone kit.

In the first half of the presentation, we will hear from our Drug Enforcement Unit on the current trends and dangers of Fentanyl and Opioids.

In the second half, we will hear from North Kansas City Hospital on the use and effects of NARCAN and how it can save a life!

Please join us on Thursday February 22nd, 2024, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at our

Regional Police Academy 6885 NE Pleasant Valley Rd

Kansas City, MO 64119

RSVP (if possible) Officer Rick Jones, richard.jones@kcpd.org

My Legislation

HOUSE BILL 1445

- Makes General Election Day an official state holiday
- Would close colleges and universities unless used as a polling place
- Missouri would become the 15th state to adopt such a measure



State Representative

JAMIE JOHNSON

District 12

HOUSE BILL 1446

- Creates a registration process for insurance reimbursement of doula services
- Will encourage use of doulas, who are associated with better birth experiences, shorter labor, and less pain medication use
- Most doula services are paid for out-of-pocket, with costs often reaching over \$1,500 per birth



State Representative
JAMIE JOHNSON
District 12

HOUSE BILL 1853

- Requires transparency when customers receive back charges on their utility as a result of a billing error
- The bill must include an explanation of charges and an itemized list of services and service dates
- The company must provide options for payment plans



State Representative
JAMIE JOHNSON
District 12



State Representative
JAMIE JOHNSON
District 12 - Kansas City

HOUSE BILL 2383

This bill protects consumers from excessive surcharges on credit and debit transactions and payment application services. A surcharge amount can't be greater than the amount the business pays to process the transaction and it requires transparency on convenience fees.



State Representative
JAMIE JOHNSON
District 12 - Kansas City

HOUSE RESOLUTION 33

Establishes Missouri's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, affirming equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of gender.

Feel free to contact my office with your questions or requests.

573-751-9760

