

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jessica Anna

Delegation: Jefferson City

Organization: Human Rights Campaign

Title: Gay and Lesbian Rights

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. The Human Rights Campaign strives to end discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens and achieve fundamental fairness and equality for all. The Human Rights Campaign seeks to improve the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans by advocating for equal rights and benefits in the workplace, ensuring families are treated equally under the law, and increasing public support among all Americans through innovative advocacy, education and outreach programs.

As a representative for the Human Rights Campaign, I encourage the Missouri Youth in Government Legislation to allow for more rights and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans.

In the 2001 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Consensus, six thousand three hundred and fifty-one (6,351) individuals said they were gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, homosexual, or other. Of these individuals, fifty-five percent (55%) were male and forty-four percent (44%) were female, with the majority falling between the ages of twenty-five to forty-four (25-44) years of age. Lesbian and gay statistics play an important role in society. According to the US Department of Justice, homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims of hate crimes. Therefore, legislation needs to be passed to grant gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans more rights and equality among the rest of society and to ensure the safety and protection of all of America's citizens.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislation that will provide more equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans, while opposing any legislation that will create more inequality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jessica Anna

Delegation: Jefferson City

Organization: Missouri First Steps

Title: Increased Funding for Missouri First Steps

Missouri First Steps is a program designed for children, birth to age three, who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental disabilities. Its goal is to make sure families have the necessary supports, services, and resources that they need to raise healthy, happy, and successful children. Missouri First Steps is intended to help families of children with disabilities: understand their child's special needs; obtain the help they desire to deal with situations that could interfere with their child's growth and development; and, provide the best conditions for their child's growth and development.

As a representative of Missouri First Steps I encourage the Missouri Youth in Government Legislature to increase funding for Missouri First Steps.

Missouri First Steps funds children at the Special Learning Center in Jefferson City, Missouri from birth until age three. A service coordinator is assigned to a family with a disabled child within the Jefferson City area. The coordinator refers the child to the Special Learning Center and pays for schooling until age three. When the child turns three, the school district that the child is from pays for his/her education and any special service he/she would need, like speech therapy, at the Special Learning Center. Funding has been cut back dramatically, preventing Missouri First Steps from helping many children with disabilities that need these special services. Missouri First Steps bases its decision of whose schooling and services it pays for on the different needs of each child. With more funding, Missouri First Steps will be able to help all the children with disabilities and their families so that the children have a better, brighter future ahead of them.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislation that increases funding for Missouri First Steps, while opposing any legislation that further cuts the amount of funding for Missouri First Steps.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jervon Barnett

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Officers

Title: Provide Additional State Funding for Police Officers

As a representative of Northwest Academy Students Advocates for Police Officers, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to provide additional state funding for police officers.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Officers is an organization that recognizes the grave need for more funding for state Police Officers. Police Officers within the state of Missouri are drastically underpaid and overworked. In the year 2006, St. Louis was named as the most dangerous city in the country. This statistic shows that crime-fighting in the state of Missouri is being neglected due to poor police funding.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Officers goals are to provide funding to increase the salaries of current Police Officers, recruit more Police Officers, and provide Police Departments with more funds to fight crime and foster unity and safety within the community.

The most specific approach in making the Missouri Police Officers a well-funded, thus more effective, organization is through the increase in state funds that are directed to the Missouri Police Departments. This can be done through a tax increase or a cut in other state-wide programming. Other options present are through private donations by offering tax incentives to those who donate to the Missouri Police Departments.

We encourage our legislature to take a stronger position in helping Missouri Police Officers maintain the safety and security of Missouri's citizens.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislation that encourages increases in funding for Missouri Police Officers as well as other Missouri law enforcement officials. I will not support any legislation that takes funds away from Missouri Police Officers or discourages expenditure of funds on Missouri Police Officers.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jervon Barnett

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: The Organization of Northwest Academy's Student Athletes (ONASA)

Title: Increasing Funding For Extra-Curricular Activities in St. Louis Public Schools

I am a representative of ONASA and I propose for the Youth In government Legislature to increase funding for extra curricular activities in St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS).

ONASA proposes to increase the funding for extra curricular activities in SLPS to have money to purchase uniforms equipment, and facilities. Then maybe, students would want to get involved in these after school activities. Students who participate in these activities are less likely to participate in unlawful activities such as robbery, gun violence, and distributing illegal substances.

ONASA's goal is to increase students' awareness in extra curricular activities in SLPS.

ONASA is currently fundraising, however dose not have enough money needed to make this process work. ONASA proposes the City of St. Louis and the Board of Education to provide more funding for extra curricular activities.

ONASA advices the Youth in Government Legislature to increase funding for extra curricular activities in SLPS.

SUMMARY:

ONASA will support any legislation passed to provide additional funding for extra curricular activities in SLPS.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jane Burkemper

Delegation: Winfield

Organization: Missouri Right to Life

Title: Stop Human Cloning in Missouri

Missouri Right to life is an organization that is committed to education citizens on the value of human life. They educate citizens on issues such as abortion, stem-cell research, perseverance of human life (euthanasia), and human cloning. Their mission is to uphold and promote the sanctity of all innocent human life at every stage through natural death by providing education and supporting legislation and programs that endorse that ideal and by organizing citizens for effective results". Missouri Right to Life's vision is "Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life".

As a representative for Missouri Right to Life I compel Youth in Government legislation to support Missouri Right to Life in stopping cloning in Missouri.

Human cloning occurs when the generic code of one person is intentionally copied to make another person with the same genetic material. Missouri Right to Life believes that "It is never morally or ethically acceptable to kill one human in order to possibly save another". That statement goes along with "therapeutic cloning" which is also known as stem-cell research. When scientists are finished researching with the cells, the scientists leave the cells to die. The organization of Missouri right to Life believes that when cells are cloned, the cells are an actual human being in the beginning stages of life. Therefore when the scientists let the cells die, the human being dies also.

SUMMARY:

I will support all legislation that is in favor of banning human cloning in the state of Missouri, and I will oppose any legislation that supports human cloning for any reason in the state of Missouri.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jane Burkemper

Delegation: Winfield

Organization: Missouri Farm Bureau

Title: Eliminating Death Taxes in Missouri

Missouri Farm Bureau is part of a nation wide voluntary non-governmental organization. This organization is made up of farmers and its purpose is to analyze farmer's problems and then help solve them. They take a stand on property rights and personal freedom because these rights are guaranteed in the Constitution. Farm Bureau's goal is to improve the general welfare of farm life, therefore improving the general welfare of our nation as well.

As a representative for the organization of Missouri Farm Bureau I urge Youth in Government to eliminate the death tax in Missouri.

In rural communities, the death tax commonly puts family owned farms and ranches out of business. The rural communities and businesses that are supported by these farms and ranches also suffer. The funds that are taken could be better used for helping the farms grow and expand business. Besides the fact that the death tax has had a negative impact on our nation's rural communities, the taxes collected do little for our government. A recent study by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress (JEC) conducted that the costs associated with the death tax "outweigh any potential profit" The JEC says, "there is no compelling reason to have a permanent estate tax and a number of reasons to eliminate the tax altogether".

SUMMARY:

I will support all legislation in favor of abolishing the death tax. I will oppose any legislation supporting the death tax.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jared Clark

Delegation: Carondelet

Organization: Fraternal Order of Police

Title: Increase benefits and pay for Policemen and their dependents.

The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is determined to better their profession and those who choose to protect and serve our communities, our states, and our country. The FOP is like a union or the teamsters, with policemen representing other policemen. In 1917, the idea of a National Organization of Police Officers came about. Today, the tradition that was first envisioned over 90 years ago lives on with more than 2,100 local lodges and more than 325,000 members in the United States. The FOP has become the largest professional police organization in the country. The FOP are proud professionals working on behalf of law enforcement officers from all ranks and levels of government.

As a representative for the FOP I urge Youth in Government to support increased state funding so that the pay and the benefits for policemen and their dependents can be increased.

The life of a policemen has never been an easy one. The life of a person who is a dependent upon a policeman is also, not an easy one. They never know what exactly might happen to them. Policemen have always played a critical role in keeping the community safe. And because of this the pay and benefits for policemen should be increased. Increased pay and benefits would help keep policemen working for their community, instead of going to more profitable private security jobs. The increase in pay and benefits not only benefit the policemen, but it would also benefit the communities of Missouri. Also, if a policeman were to die while working, their dependents should receive more benefits from the state, and to be able to receive the entire pension, instead of just a portion.

SUMMARY:

I support legislation that supports the general welfare of policemen, and I oppose any legislation that attempts to take away funding from them.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Jared Clark

Delegation: Carondelet

Organization: Missouri State University

Title: Increase state funding for Missouri State University.

Missouri State University was founded in Springfield in 1905 as the Fourth District Normal School. By 1972, as additional programs were implemented at the undergraduate level, and with the development of graduate education, the University had become an educationally diverse institution. Recognition of this further growth and development again resulted in an official change in name to Southwest Missouri State University. In 2005, the University's name changed to Missouri State University. This final name change reflected the changing nature of the institution, as evidenced by increased enrollment, admissions standards, graduation rates, graduate programs and freshman success.

As a representative for Missouri State University I urge Youth in Government Legislation to support increase state funding for Missouri State University.

In order to continue the upward spiral that Missouri State University is achieving right now, state funding needs to be increased. Without state funding the University would have to increase their tuition. With one of the lowest tuition rates in the state, Missouri State is often where students that can not afford to go to one of those large private schools. If tuition were to be raised then some students would not be able to attend, not be able to get a quality collegiate education. In short, increased state funding means lower tuition which then means more people can get a quality education.

SUMMARY:

I support any legislation that increases funding for Missouri State University, and opposes any legislation that attempts to pull funding from Missouri State University.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: David Danaher

Delegation: Kirkwood

Organization: American Lung Association

Title: Missouri is Losing the Fight Against Cigarettes

The mission of the American Lung Association, is to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. The American Lung Association is the oldest organization in the country. It also has associate and constituent offices around the country.

As a representative of the American Lung Association, I want to raise the taxes on cigarettes in the state of Missouri. Currently, Missouri has the lowest cigarette taxes in the country. The money coming from the taxes should go to anti-smoking efforts.

The reason I want to raise taxes in the state of Missouri is because we have the lowest taxes in the country. We can't expect to reduce smoking and raise tobacco awareness with taxes the way they are. That is why they must be raised. And with the money raised we can afford quality tobacco education. So that way, people will be able to make an educated decision before they start smoking.

SUMMARY:

Missouri needs to raise cigarette taxes and put the money gained from the taxes towards anti-tobacco efforts.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Madeline Dierker

Delegation: St. Joseph's

Organization: Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

Title: Providing a Mentor and Job Opportunity Program for Youth Ageing-Out of Foster Care

The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition, also referred to as Little Wishes, is a nonprofit organization in Saint Louis, Missouri whose mission is to "create permanency in every foster child's life by recruiting and supporting foster/adoptive homes in the St. Louis metropolitan community." It is recognized by the Better Business Bureau as an honor roll charity, and is the largest recruiter of foster and adoptive care homes in the St. Louis area.

As a representative of the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition I urge the Youth and Government Legislature to support funding for a mentor and job opportunity program to provide the youth who are ageing out of foster care with the correct tools necessary to succeed in life.

While the FACC strives to find homes for all children in the foster care program, many do not get adopted. Its program, Project Teen Success, is dedicated to finding homes for children between the ages of thirteen and twenty-one, which account for around 41% of the 11,681 children in foster care today. These teens are eligible to leave the system at the age of eighteen, but can choose to remain until they are twenty-one. When these teens leave and go out into the world, they are not equipped to find gainful employment, and are at a high risk of homelessness, joblessness, illness, incarceration, welfare dependency, pregnancy, and sexual and physical victimization. They do not have the ability to succeed in this ever increasingly competitive world. Studies nationwide have found that out of all the youths discharged from the foster program up to 30% struggled with homelessness, 40-63% did not complete high school, 25-55% were unemployed, and those who were employed had average earnings below the poverty level, and after one year only 38% of the employed youths were still working. Additionally, 30-62% had trouble accessing health care, because of inadequate finances and no insurance. 31-42% were arrested, 50% of the young women were pregnant within 12-18 months, and 32 to 42% were forced to rely on some form of public assistance. The young people need someone to rely upon and offering a mentor program will give them a friend to talk to when they are making the transition into the real world.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF DIERKER

SUMMARY:

I will support funding to provide a mentor program that could lead to job opportunities for youth who are ageing out of the foster system. I will oppose any cut in the budget for foster care agencies.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Madeline Dierker

Delegation: St. Joseph's

Organization: Carondelet Health Services

Title: Increased Incentives for Prospective Nursing Students and Educators

Carondelet Health Services is a non-profit Catholic health system that is responsible for the running of two acute care hospitals, three long term care facilities, and several rehabilitation centers in Kansas City and Blue Springs, Missouri. It is a sector of Ascension Health, which is the largest not-for-profit health system in the nation, and is headquartered in Saint Louis, Missouri. Its mission is dedication to the healing ministry of the body, mind, and spirit. Carondelet Health is committed to respect for human dignity; therefore they are concerned with providing the best quality health care available to all of their patients.

As a representative for Carondelet Health Services I exhort the Youth in Government Legislature to support increased incentives and funding for capitation grants for prospective nursing students and educators.

A survey conducted in 2005 by the American Federation of Teachers revealed that one out of five nurses was considering leaving the medical profession within the next five years. There is already a scarcity of nurses, and in addition, there are not enough educators to teach students entering the medical field. While the Nurse Reinvestment Act helped increase applicants for medical school by one 125%, there are not enough faculty members to teach those interested in the field. In the 2006-2007 school year alone, two-thirds of nursing schools had one to eighteen vacant faculty positions, and were forced to reject many of the applicants. In 2005, 41,683 eligible candidates were denied acceptance to nursing schools because there were not enough teachers. With a shortage of nurses already, there are none to spare to the educational area of nursing. As the number of nurses in the field decreases, the ratio of the number of patients to one nurse increases. This undoubtedly affects the quality of care received during treatment, because the nurse lacks the time to give the patient the proper amount of attention. If there were greater incentives to become a nurse, such as payment of school loans, more people would consider the option of becoming nursing educators; and if there were more nurses the quality of care received would improve, providing patients with the care they want and deserve.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF DIERKER

SUMMARY:

I will support an increase in incentives and an authorization for capitation grants to increase the interest in the nursing profession, which will increase the number of nursing students and educators. I will oppose any efforts to reduce funding of incentives for nursing education.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Maggie Goss

Delegation: Visitation

Organization: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Title: Protection of Personal Health Information

Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services serves the citizens of Missouri by working to improve the health and quality of life for Missourians of all ages. Many factors influence health status: individual genetics and behaviors, social environment, physical environment, policies and interventions, access to quality care and services. By providing information and education; effective regulation and oversight; quality services and surveillance of diseases and conditions, the department seeks to address these factors and fulfill its vision of healthy Missourians for life.

As a representative for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, I urge Youth in Government Legislation to further the protection of personal health information.

Medical identity theft is a crime that can greatly harm victims and plague their medical and financial lives for years. Despite the harm it inflicts, medical identity theft is one of the least studied and poorly documented identity theft crimes a 2006 PriceWaterhouseCoopers study, "The Global State of Security," reveals that data security isn't a high priority at health care facilities in the United States and around the world. Only 48 percent of the nearly 8,000 health care executives surveyed reported that their facility encrypted data before transmission and only 37 percent have an information security strategy. Because of the healthcare system's move from a paper to electronic basis, medical theft is becoming easier to commit and harder to fix as medical errors are disseminated over and over again through information-sharing pathways. Besides multiple financial effects, medical identity theft can cause victims to receive the wrong medical treatment, to find their health insurance exhausted, to fail physical exams for employment due to diseases in their health record that do not belong to them, and to become ineligible for both health and life insurance benefits. Missouri citizen's personal health information and lives must be protected.

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that strengthens the protection of personal health information and oppose any legislation that undermines this desperately needed protection and privacy.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Levenston Hall

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Students Against Child Abuse

Title: Provide Stricter Punishments for Child Abusers

As a representative of Northwest Academy Students Against Child Abusers, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to impose stricter punishments on individuals engaging in child abuse.

Northwest Academy Students Against Child Abusers is dedicated to providing public awareness about the laws regarding child abusers. Often times child abusers are released back into society after serving minimal jail time or community service. Studies have shown that child abusers are frequently repeat offenders, so it is important to ensure that their punishments take into account the severity of their crimes and the likelihood of repeat offenses.

Northwest Academy Students Against Child Abuse's goal is to provide public awareness about child abuse laws and to encourage harsher punishments for child abusers.

Specific approaches are to provide state funding to organizations, such as the Child Abuse Protection Association as well as the Missouri Children's Trust Fund. Both of these organizations provide an outlet for legal advocacy on behalf of the families of abuse victims. Another approach that Northwest Academy Students Against Child Abuse takes is to encourage the instatement of a Child Abuse Registry to publically document child abusers.

We encourage our legislature to take a stronger stand in preventing child abuse in Missouri.

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation that provides funding for organizations that tackle the problem with child abuse. I also support any legislation that imposes harsher penalties for people that abuse children, including the instatement of a Child Abuse Registry. I oppose any and all legislation that reduces funding for organizations geared toward protecting children's rights and any laws that reduce punishments for child abusers.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Levenston Hall

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Students for College

Title: Provide Programs for College in Public Schools

As a representative of Northwest Academy Students Against Child Abusers, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to support legislation that provides assistance to students in the capacity of college prep programs.

Northwest Academy Students for college are dedicated to providing public awareness about the lack of assistance given to high school students in regard to college prep. Often times students have no idea of the requirements for college entrance, including compulsory tests, courses, and extra-curricular activities. It is the responsibility of the state and of public schools to better equip their students to make academic decisions that will put them in good standing to attend college.

Northwest Academy Students Against Child Abuse's goal is to provide public awareness about The need for college prep in public schools.

Specific approaches are to provide state funding to organizations, such as kids camps, that hold summer programs to teach kids about the importance of going to college as well as the process required. In addition, groups like ACT and Kaplan all provide college prep materials to help students perform well on standardized tests. All these organizations provide an outlet for students to gain exposure to the process of college entrance.

We encourage our legislature to take a stronger stand in sending students to college in Missouri.

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation that provides funding for college prep programs in public schools. I also support any legislation that increases state funding for college prep materials and courses in public schools. I oppose any and all legislation that reduces funding for organizations geared toward college prep assistance or vocational and/or tech school assistance.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Tara Hammer

Delegation: Springfield

Organization: Missouri Historical Society

Title: Missouri Historical Society is in need of more funding

The simple fact of the matter is that if we truly want to look towards the future we must study our past. Unfortunately our past is being stripped from us because we cannot seem to get enough funding for the Missouri Historical Society. It is a tragic state to be in, but at present we simply cannot save the vast amounts of historical documents and artifacts that are necessary to continue to have this state move forward.

Governor Blunt gave \$1.5 million dollars to the Historical Society on October 3, but still this is not enough. In order for us to continue to work in the most productive way we must consolidate the Historical Societies. While the Missouri Historical Society is one by name, in reality it is a lot of little historical societies that seem fairly disjointed. Most of the funding for this is coming through the private donations and the few membership fees that they do collect. They are working inefficiently because they cannot gather the amount of funding that is needed to bring all of these little societies together, not just by name, but by actually working as one unit.

The Missouri Historical Society has been working to preserve the history of this great state since 1898. If we are to continue in this proud tradition we must not leave it up to chance and membership fees to keep this vital organization afloat. We currently have one of the most generous governors to help in this manner. He has already given some. If we were to simply double bring it up to a meager \$3 million, the Historical Society would be better able to accomplish its goals.

SUMMARY:

It has come to our attention that most of the funding for the Missouri Historical Society comes through the fees of the members. In order for this vital organization to stay afloat it is necessary that the funding given by Governor Blunt be doubled.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Tara Hammer

Delegation: Springfield

Organization: American Cancer Society

Title: The State Government must do more to fund the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a vital organization that provides for the needs of those suffering from this terrible disease. They are involved in such things as providing funding for cancer research, providing some sorts of counseling and other services needed by those effected with cancer.

In Missouri nearly 30,000 people will be diagnosed with cancer in 2007. In the United States as a whole, just under 1.5 million people will be diagnosed this year. These numbers are staggering. We must do something now.

The federal government is the biggest provider for cancer research. It is now the state's turn to step up. Missouri only provided 5 grants for the researching of cancer, providing \$3 million dollars. This is not nearly enough. We are one of the state's with the fewest amount of grants for cancer research. As it is now, it is imperative that we continue our fight against cancer. We must provide the funding needed to get the job done in the most effective and timely manner.

SUMMARY:

Missouri only gave five grants for cancer research in 2006. The state government must do more to fight this terrible and deadly disease.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Kathryn Hedlund

Delegation: Francis Howell North

Organization: Missouri Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Title: Increase in number and funding of women's shelters

Missouri is experiencing its highest number of incidents of domestic violence since 1999. The Missouri Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence also known as MCADSV is a coalition of organizations and individuals who are working to end domestic and sexual violence. The purpose of MCADSV is to end domestic violence through assisting victims of domestic and sexual abuse, and through educating the public about domestic and sexual abuse.

As a representative of MCADSV my goal is to pass legislation that increases funding for Domestic Violence Shelter and Support (DVSS) grants.

MCADSV states that one way to achieve its goals is "to ensure there is someone to talk with, someplace to go, and someone to help women who have been battered and their children." MCADSV has established many women's shelters to ensure women have somewhere to go. In 2006 the number of women and children turned away from shelters increased 20%. These shelters were too full to hold all the women and children who need to stay in them. Money is needed so that new shelters and can be created and existing ones can be expanded.

SUMMARY:

Summary:

I will support legislation the increases funding for DVSS grants and other domestic and sexual abuse support programs. I will oppose legislation that reduces funding for DVSS grants, sexual and domestic abuse programs, and/or sexual and domestic abuse organizations.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Kathryn Hedlund

Delegation: Francis Howell North

Organization: NARAL Pro-choice America

Title: Protecting a woman's right to choose

NARAL's mission is to ensure that American women don't lose their right to choose to have an abortion. NARAL works to ensure that abortion is easily accessible to all women in America. NARAL fights all laws, federal or state, that make it hard for a woman to have an abortion

Abortion is a right guaranteed to American women by the Supreme Court. In Missouri many laws make it hard for when to exercise this right. A woman deserves to have easy access to an abortion without interference from the government. The laws that limit the accessibility of abortion are unfair to women. Some of these laws have even been declared unconstitutional by state and/or federal courts. Laws that limit a woman's ability to have an abortion deny the woman her rights.

I will work for the passage of legislation that repeals current Missouri laws that restrict access to abortion. I will also work for the passage of new laws that secure easy access to abortion.

SUMMARY:

Summary:

I will support legislation that supports and/or protects a women's right to choose. I will oppose legislation that makes abortion less accessible to women.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Lisa Hellmich

Delegation: Parkway South

Organization: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Title: Prohibit the use of Corporal Punishment in Missouri Public Schools

"The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is a team of dedicated individuals working for the continuous improvement of education and services for all citizens. We believe that we can make a positive difference in the quality of life for all Missourians by providing exceptional service to students, educators, schools and citizens" is the mission statement of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

As a representative of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education I urge the Youth in Government Legislation to prohibit the use of corporal punishment in Missouri public school systems.

Currently, in the Missouri Revised Statutes (160.261.10), "spanking, when administered by certificated personnel of a school district in a reasonable manner in accordance with the local board of education's written policy of discipline is not abuse..." This is an unacceptable form of punishment. There are much better and more effective forms of punishment that can be used instead of physical discipline. The use of corporal punishment is sending Missouri children the wrong message. State Rep. Barbara Fraser explains "The bottom line is that by using corporal punishment, we are saying to children that it's OK to hit someone." Currently 29 other states have abolished this barbaric form of punishment. It is very important that Missouri joins this movement. Finally, abolition of corporal punishment is supported by the National Parent Teacher Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Psychologists and the American Medical Association

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that abolishes the use of corporal punishment in Missouri public schools.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Samuel James

Delegation: Center

Organization: American Civil Liberties Union

Title: Protecting Civil Rights- Freedom, to Marry, of Speech, of Privacy.

By representing the ACLU, I encourage and support all legislation that furthers the cause of human rights and civil liberties. Also in turn fight against all legislation that would repress those rights and liberties. This is my goal and purpose.

The American Civil Liberties Union, stands for the civil liberties of all Americans, they are champions of gay rights, free speech, and the basic right to privacy. These are among the many issues that the ACLU support along with myself. The ACLU has four basic ideals that it seeks to protect...First Amendment Rights, Equal Protection Under Law, Right To Due Process, Right To Privacy...these are the most basic principles of the organization and of the US Constitution. I argue that all are guaranteed these rights no matter their class, race, creed, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, or gender. The ACLU has been a champion for these liberties since 1917 to the present day. It has tried cases, supported legislation and has even take action against school districts, all in an effort to stop the infringement of our citizens unalienable rights.

I take the position of action, even when all odds seem against one, that is when you must fight your hardest. In the face of the mighty British Empire the American colonists fought and won the American Revolution, a war of based on principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Many great figures stood up and said, "we won't take it anymore!!". Benjamin Franklin said, "A man that would lay down his civil liberties for life deserves neither!", and Patrick Henry in his famous speech at the Virginia Convention thundering out, "...give me liberty or give me death!!!" These are the men who helped pave the way for our way of government and life, the people whom without I would not be able to write this paper. So I will act to support, and suggest legislation that reflects the above stated principles, radical as they may be to some are the norm to others. Gay marriage must become a reality, the definition of marriage must be opened up to be marriage between two consenting adults, with no regard to race, gender, creed, or nationality of either party. Many other nations have already accepted gay unions, why not us? Some say it will weaken marriage, with heterosexual divorce rate at 5.3 per thousand, how could adding people to the marriage pool hurt marriage. Legislation that would plain out legalize gay marriage is what I support and nothing less than equal protection under law, as it says over the US Supreme Court. It is a basic right that the government should not and cannot infringe upon. Also I am an advocate of

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF JAMES

free speech it is what lets me write this paper. It is part of our basic rights as individuals. I will fight against any legislation that would take away any of that right. I support legislation that would prevent, school administrators from censoring students, or government interference in any form of media or public speeches, or private meetings of any kind. Further more I am a supporter of freedom of privacy and believe that all individuals have the right to privacy. Legislation blocking the government from going around warrants, and increasing the penalty for search and seizure without a warrant.

SUMMARY:

In Conclusion, I support any and all legislation, or political action, that would help to legalize gay marriage giving the basic right for a person to marry their partner, and share their love. Also, any and all legislation that would protect the right of free speech. Finally I will support all legislation that protects the privacy of the individual. In closing I will represent my organization to the fullest of my ability and follow my conscience and heart, fighting for the principles our founders fought and died for, and in Patrick Henry's timeless words, "...give me liberty or give me death!"

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Samuel James

Delegation: Center

Organization: Missouri Right To Life

Title: Promoting Life In Missouri

Missouri Right To Life promotes life at all ages from conception to natural death. It is thus my objective to promote the values of life in our society. My petition to the Youth in Government Legislature is to beg them to uphold the values of life, that have been set forth from our nation's birth and the birth of the state of Missouri alike, granting all persons, no matter their stage in life, the rights to, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

MRL educates the public on matters of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. They are involved in the push for political, not just social rejection of a culture of death. By means of exploring alternatives to abortion, they help to promote life. It is their objective to protect innocent life by means of political action, and thus I am here to represent them through this paper and my presence at the YIG Convention.

No matter ones stance on abortion all must agree that life is the very foundation of our society, that is why we have laws forbidding murder. If we allow abortion, the act of ending life, then we are supporting murder a crime, but in the current eyes of the law it is not murder. If we allow the ending of life before it even begins then we should allow the ending of life at all stages of life. The fact of the matter is that 93% of all abortions are for reasons of inconvenience according to the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform. This is unacceptable, this also renders the argument of, "what if it is a health hazard?", unusable in this argument because only 6% of all persons have health reasons for the abortion and only 1% due to incest and rape. This strikes at the heart of the argument, we have allowed the question of "choice" and "liberty" to support the murders, the unjust killing of the innocent because it is an inconvenience to them. This is irresponsible to allow people who consent to sexual intercourse resulting in an unwanted pregnancy to throw away their responsibility. Throwing away their natural duties as mothers, and in some cases fathers, grandparents, and extended families who do not want the burden to just simply throw away a life.

The only way to stop this unjust act is to create legislation that effectively ends abortions, through the closing of all abortion clinics in Missouri borders, not actually going so far as to criminalize abortions, but to stop the providers of abortions from acting, this then will allow for women with health issues to use their own consent on abortions in a medical emergency, in which law cannot decide on one life or another, doctors must be mandated to only perform abortions in matters

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF JAMES

of health hazards at the consent of the mother, or person with power of attorney. This will preserve the right of life to both mothers and to their unborn children. If we can stop providing the tools of abortion we can end abortion in Missouri and possibly create a standard for the US Federal Government to follow.

SUMMARY:

In summary, I will support and champion for any and all legislation that will lead to the limiting or end to abortions in Missouri, to that end I will serve as a medium of information and research to aid the legislators in presenting their arguments, and even testify on behalf of my organization on behalf of their position. Also in contrast I will work to block any legislation that would make abortions more accessible, and create a way to change the views of the YIG Assembly to support my organization and its cause. Thus preserving the natural rights entitled to all, which are the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Vernesha Jones

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Community Improvement

Title: Providing Support to Community Centers for Juveniles

As a representative of Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Community Improvement, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to acknowledge St. Louis juveniles by providing state funding to community centers.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Community Improvement is dedicated to providing mentorship, after-school programs, and vocational programs for teenagers in St. Louis, especially inner city students. Many St. Louis city schools lack funding and cannot provide after school extra-curricular programs or tutoring. Most of the teenagers come from single-family homes that cannot afford to provide their children with extra-curricular activities.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Community Improvement have the goal of providing mentoring and vocational programs for teenagers in St. Louis by supporting existing programs like the Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, as well as provide financial assistance to St. Louis city schools for after-school programs.

Specific approaches are to provide funding to community development centers other than the ones mentioned. Teenagers need somewhere to go when they are not in school so that they do not get involved in mischievous activities.

We encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to provide state funding to organizations that provide support for inner city youth.

SUMMARY:

I will support all legislative efforts to improve the quality of life for inner city youth. I will support any legislative efforts to provide additional funding to programs that benefit inner city youth.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Vernesha Jones

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Protective Services

Title: Increase Funding for an Increase in Police Stations and Paramedic Stations

As a representative of Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Protective Services, I support an increase in police stations and paramedic services. Youth in Government should support the increase of police and paramedic stations for many reasons. The inner city's crime rate is extremely high. More police need to be placed close to exceedingly troubled neighborhoods to reduce crime and death rates. Frequently when you call the police, it takes a long time for them to respond. Lives are lost because police and paramedics fail to timely respond to calls. The purpose of Northwest Academy Students Advocating Police Stations is to decrease the crime and death rate in inner city communities by creating more police stations in high risk areas. It is our hope that when a call is made, police will have the means to respond quicker. Some strategies that can be taken are to engage the police officers in the communities themselves to familiarize themselves with the people that they are helping every day. Paramedics should aid in the betterment of the community about certain safety skills in case speedy responses are not possible. We hope that the Youth in Government legislation will take our proposal into consideration by building such stations.

SUMMARY:

We will support any legislation that increases funding for protective services.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Kelly Knapp

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law

Title: Legalizing Marijuana Would Benefit Missourians

The National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Law (NORML) is a non-profit, public-interest lobby based in Washington DC that supports the decriminalization of marijuana through a "responsible use" policy. The organization, founded in 1970, aims for the "removal of all penalties for the private possession and responsible use of marijuana by adults, including cultivation for personal use, and casual nonprofit transfers of small amounts." NORML works with the government, specifically Congress, federal agencies, and the national media, to reform current policy. NORML supports the legalization of marijuana for personal, medicinal, and industrial use. NORML believes criminal laws about possession do not deter marijuana use, and that decriminalization of marijuana would free up police resources to deal with more serious crimes, would not lead to increased marijuana use, and would be less harmful than the criminal prohibition of marijuana.

As a representative for the National Organization for the Reformation of Marijuana Law (NORML), I urge Youth in Government Legislation to support the decriminalization of marijuana for personal, medicinal, and industrial use.

Since 1991, the number of marijuana arrest per year have more than doubled, while the adult use of the drug has remained stable. Marijuana use remains consisted despite a high level of enforcement, and there is no detectable relationship between changes in enforcement and levels of marijuana use over time. 60,000 individuals are behind bars for marijuana offense at a cost to taxpayers of \$1.2 billion per year. Police arrest more Americans per year on marijuana charges than the total number of arrestees for all violent crimes combined, including murder rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The police force of Missouri should be dedicated to ensuring public safety instead of looking for stoners to arrest. Government studies conclude that marijuana decriminalization has had virtually no effect on either marijuana use or beliefs and attitudes about marijuana among American young people in those states that have enacted such a policy. States and regions that have maintained the strictest criminal penalties for marijuana possession have experienced the largest proportionate increase in use. In 2006, a bill, similar to other medicinal marijuana proposals filed in Missouri's General Assembly in past years, was filed in the Missouri House of Representatives that reopened debate about medicinal marijuana. Similar bills have already been passed by 11 states. Legalizing marijuana will not lead to an increase in its use, and will increase the safety of Missourians.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF KNAPP

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that supports any aspect of the decriminalization of marijuana in Missouri and oppose legislation that, in any way, increases punishment for the possession of marijuana.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Kelly Knapp

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: American Medical Marijuana Association

Title: Health Organizations Support the Decriminalization of Marijuana for Medicinal Purposes --Marijuana Proves Itself a Beneficial Tool in Patient Treatment

The American Medical Marijuana Association (AMMA) is a volunteer organization working to implement, preserve and protect the rights of medicinal cannabis patients through political activism. AMMA recently received official recognition by the U.S. government as one of the top organization website promoting marijuana law reform. The organization bases their platform on the "idea of not bargaining away people's rights" and AMMA believes that "each person will have different needs, which are best determined by the patient and physician. What works well for one patient may not work for another."

As a representative for the Missouri Arts Council I urge Youth in Government Legislation to support the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes and increase funding for research about the effects of medicinal marijuana on various diseases and illnesses.

Written references to the use marijuana as a medicine date back nearly 5,000 years. Western medicine embraced marijuana's medical properties in the mid-1800s, and by the beginning of the 20th century, physicians had published more than 100 papers in the Western medical literature recommending its use for a variety of disorders. Cannabis remained in the United States pharmacopoeia until 1941, removed only after Congress passed the Marihuana Tax Act which severely hampered physicians from prescribing it.

Modern research suggests that cannabis is a valuable aid in the treatment of a wide range of clinical applications, including include pain relief -- particularly of neuropathic pain -- nausea, spasticity, glaucoma, and movement disorders. Marijuana is also a powerful appetite stimulant, specifically for patients suffering from HIV, the AIDS wasting syndrome, or dementia. Emerging research suggests that marijuana's medicinal properties may protect the body against some types of malignant tumors and are neuroprotective.

Virtually every government-appointed commission to investigate marijuana's medical potential has issued favorable findings. More recently, Britain's House of Lord's Science and Technology Committee found in 1998 that the available evidence supported the legal use of medical cannabis. U.S. investigators reached a

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF KNAPP

similar conclusion in 1999. After conducting a nearly two-year review of the medical literature, investigators at the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine affirmed: "Scientific data indicate the potential therapeutic value of cannabinoid drugs ... for pain relief, control of nausea and vomiting, and appetite stimulation. ... Except for the harms associated with smoking, the adverse effects of marijuana use are within the range tolerated for other medications." Currently, more than 60 U.S. and international health organizations -- including the American Public Health Association, Health Canada, and the Federation of American Scientists-- support granting patients immediate legal access to medicinal marijuana under a physician's supervision.

Despite the possible healing potential, medicinal marijuana remains illegal in Missouri, and growing a single marijuana plant can result in up to 5 years in prison and a hefty fine. Free up police resources by legalizing medicinal marijuana, and issuing licenses to qualified patients to grow small amounts for personal use.

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that supports promotion the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes. I will oppose legislation that increases ramifications for violating possession laws or pulls research funds regarding the testing of medicinal marijuana.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Steven Kohner

Delegation: Kirkwood

Organization: Missouri Office of Administration

Title: Prohibiting Smoking in State Buildings

I represent the Office of Administration, the executive department responsible for the administration, maintenance, and regulation of state property, as well as the management of funds for the executive branch, and the coordination of central management functions of state government.

The current legislative goal of the Office of Administration is to prohibit smoking within state buildings because of the health and monetary damages that smoking causes to the State of Missouri.

Smoking continues as a growing problem for the United States, despite the efforts to curb smoking in public. Every year, this deadly habit kills 440,000 people in the US – more than from alcohol, car accidents, suicide, AIDS, homicide and illegal drugs combined. In 2003 alone, 141,203 years of potential life were lost in Missouri due to tobacco related illnesses and deaths. Smokers are not the only ones who lose their lives to cigarettes however; secondhand smoke is a tremendous threat to those who choose not to smoke. About 1,155 Missourians die every year due exposure to second hand smoke. Not only will the state bare the financial burden for the care of many smokers, \$496 million of which comes from Medicaid, but the state also bares the financial burden of cleaning up after those who smoke. The FMDC, which is responsible for maintaining state property, states that smokers routinely fail to properly dispose of their cigarette butts and miscellaneous debris. The cost to the taxpayers is immense. \$544,000 annually is an estimation of the FMDC. The State of Missouri has been lax towards smokers, being one of only 19 states that allow smoking in designated areas and having the second lowest tobacco tax in the country, only 17 cents (the national average is \$1.00 per pack). In return, the state is made to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars every year because of smokers who do not dispose of their cigarettes. In addition, improper disposal of cigarettes has led to fires and other disasters, which have cost the state thousands of dollars per incident to clean up. Furthermore, the state continues to spend time and money setting up the designated areas in which smokers can smoke. The Department of Health and Senior Services spends \$15,625 per year to clean cigarette receptacles. Areas must be cordoned off, ash receptacles must be procured, maintained, replaced, filled with sand, butts properly disposed of, and receptacles kept in place and in good repair. Finally, from a management perspective, there is also the “lost” employee time in which they leave their work area in order to go outside in order to take their smoke breaks. Each break totals

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CONTINUATION OF KOHNER

around 15 minutes, but they add up, and many smokers take more breaks than they are allowed. Every year, the amount of productivity lost by the state due to smoking totals \$36.8 million.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Administration urges legislation that would prohibit smoking in state buildings in order to curtail the dangers and damages that smoking causes to the state.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Alix Lewis

Delegation: Francis Howell North

Organization: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Title: Increase funding for University of Missouri School System.

The estimated state budget for the university of Missouri school system for 2007 is 2.2 billion. That sounds like a big number but it isn't if you think about it. "Missouri ranks 46th among all states in appropriations for higher education." The state only increased the budget from 2006 to 2007 by 5.8%. More students than ever are wanting to continue their education after high school. Unfortunately students are unable to follow their dreams because lack of financial aid and scholarships. Scholarships in the state is only 16.9% or 363.8 million dollars of the budget. If you consider that it cost approximate 20,000 a year to go to college this does not seem like a lot of money. "Tuition at Missouri's public four-year colleges and universities increased 58% between FY2006 and FY2007 that means that by the time you and I are in college it might be unaffordable. I think the budget for scholarships needs to be increased.

SUMMARY:

I will support all bills that increase funding for the University of Missouri School System and oppose all bills decreasing funding.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Alix Lewis

Delegation: Francis Howell North

Organization: Missouri Department of Transportation

Title: Tolls for road improvement

How do you feel about the roads you drive on? To me they feel bumpy and hard. Missouri Department of Transportation should put toll on some bridges and roads then we could make our roads and bridges better. The money from the toll bridges and roads would be used for the repair and maintenance of bridges and roads. Say you go over a bump and you pop a tire, how would you feel? Not so good right, but with tolls on bridges and roads, the roads and bridges can be repaired and maintained so you would not pop a tire due to bad conditions. You might think if there are tolls on bridges then there would be more traffic delays and you could be late to arrive at your destinations? Well, I propose a pass you could purchase which would allow you to swipe and go. By all means tolls on bridges and roads funding could provide money necessary for improvement on the current road and bridges conditions we have now.

SUMMARY:

I will support any bills supporting putting tolls on bridges and roads to help improve and maintain our roads and bridges and I will oppose any bill that opposes putting tolls on bridges and roads to help them.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Elizabeth Ludy

Delegation: Jefferson City

Organization: National Endowment for the Arts

Title: Increased State Funding for the Education for Underprivileged Students of the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the nation's largest funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

As a representative for the National Endowment for the Arts, I urge the Youth in Government Legislature to support an increase in state funding for the education of underprivileged students of the arts.

The arts and human history have run parallel to each other since the beginning of time. Through the arts man has learned to express himself in many ways that are vital to his culture and diversity. The National Endowment for the Arts, in its 40-year history, has helped to bring the arts to all 50 states. The National Endowment for the Arts has provided for the development of regional theaters, operas, ballets, symphony orchestras, museums, and many other art organizations. The NEA has also provided "National Initiatives" to give students and America the opportunity to participate in the Arts. If The National Endowment for the Arts had more support (i.e. funding) from the state, they will be able to provide more grants for programs that would benefit the underprivileged student. More state funding would result in many more "National Initiatives" that would offer the disadvantaged students incentives to become educated in the arts throughout the country.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislation that supports increased funding for the National Endowment of the Arts and I will oppose any legislation that will pull funding from The National Endowment of the Arts and/or any other beneficial art program.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Elizabeth Ludy

Delegation: Jefferson City

Organization: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Title: The Enforcement of Harsher Punishments for Animal Abusers

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was founded in 1866 as the first humane organization in the Western Hemisphere. The Society was formed to alleviate the injustices animals faced then, and [ASPCA] continue to battle cruelty today. Whether it is saving a pet that has been accidentally poisoned, fighting to pass humane laws, rescuing animals from abuse or sharing resources with shelters across the country, they “work toward the day in which no animal will live in pain or fear.”

As a representative for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, I urge the Youth in Government Legislature to protect the rights of animals in Missouri.

Many persons would not intentionally take a pro-animal abuse position; however, many people do not differentiate between animal abuse and general discipline of an animal. In some cases, an animal owner may unintentionally abuse their pet while simply trying to discipline them for misbehaving. In other cases the abuser intentionally harms the animal in cruel and unusual ways such as; beating, suffocating, drowning, hanging, shooting, stabbing, burning, etc. These are the people that need to suffer harsher consequences.

Suggested penalties for abusing animals may include but are not limited to longer prison sentences, larger fines, stricter parole sentences, and mandatory instructional classes on animal discipline for all offenders.

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation that proposes stricter punishments for animal abusers.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Giorgio Mack

Delegation: Center

Organization: MADD

Title: Protecting Our Citizens One Car Ride at Time

The death rate from alcohol-related traffic accidents has declined since the 1980s. According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), alcohol related deaths per year have declined from 26,173 in 1982 to 16,885 in 2005. MADD has argued that the group's efforts have brought about this decrease, because it claims that alcohol-related fatalities declined more than did non-alcohol-related fatalities.

I will champion for any and all legislation that protects our citizens from inebriated driving. MADD has successfully advocated, and continues to advocate, for the enactment of laws for even more strict and severe punishment of offenders of laws against driving under the influence, as well as laws against drinking and driving. More recently, MADD was heavily involved in lobbying to reduce the legal limit for blood alcohol from BAC .10 to BAC .08. In 2000, this standard was passed by Congress and by 2005, every state had an illegal .08 BAC limit. MADD Canada has recently called for a maximum legal BAC of .05. Although many MADD leaders have supported a lower limit, MADD U.S. has not yet officially called for a legal limit of .05. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) supports legislation setting the illegal blood alcohol content (BAC) limit for adult drivers who have been previously convicted of DUI/DWI at .05 per se. This lower BAC limit shall apply to these offenders for a period of five years from date of conviction and they shall be required to provide a breath test if requested by an officer following a legal traffic stop. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mothers_Against_Drunk_Driving) MADD has successfully advocated, and continues to advocate, for the enactment of laws for even more strict and severe punishment of offenders of laws against driving under the influence, as well as laws against drinking and driving. Alcohol use is not only costly to our health but also to our pocketbooks. Americans spend about three times as much on alcoholic beverages as they do on fruits and vegetables. Alcohol impairs your vision, thought process, and your judgment. Alcohol is ok when it is drunk in moderation but when people drink to excess it becomes a problem. We all make mistakes but there are consequences for the mistakes we make. Thus harsher punishment for driving drunk is a must. Maintaining the legal drinking age at 21 years without any exception for religious, medicinal, health, cultural or other reasons, even when provided by law, is a must. Increase driving while intoxicated (DWI)/driving under the influence (DUI) enforcement, especially the use of frequent, highly publicized sobriety checkpoints, is a must.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF MACK

SUMMARY:

In conclusion, I will champion for any and all legislation that protects our citizens from inebriated driving. MADD has successfully advocated, and continues to advocate, for the enactment of laws for even more strict and severe punishment of offenders of laws against driving under the influence, as well as laws against drinking and driving. With the support of the YMCA Youth in Government we as Missourians can make our roads, cities, and most importantly our families safer.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Giorgio Mack

Delegation: Center

Organization: American Medical Marijuana Association

Title: Should Medicinal Marijuana Be Legalized?

As a representative of The American Medical Marijuana Association, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to legalize medicinal marijuana because people are suffering and they need relief.

In spite of the established medical value of marijuana, doctors are currently permitted to prescribe cocaine and morphine - but not marijuana... Marijuana was first described, in print, in a Chinese book of medicine, "Herbal," in the 2nd century B.C. It was also used in China as an anesthetic 5,000 years ago. The ancient Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and East Indians used the drug to control muscle spasms, reduce pain, and to treat indigestion. As early as 1611, marijuana was cultivated for its fiber in Jamestown, Virginia. In 19th century America, marijuana was used by the medical profession for treating spastic conditions, headaches, labor pains, insomnia, and menstrual cramps. It is still used as a medicine in the Middle East and in Asia.

If we legalize marijuana, people who use marijuana for treatment of pain associated with diseases such as cancer, will not have legal access to it. The sale of marijuana as a prescription drug serves as a source of income for the government. (Source: The Controlled Substances Act of 1970, 21 U.S.C. §§ 801 et seq.) It limits the legal sale of the drug to those who are using it for medicinal purposes, rather than personal use. It insures that people who use the drug for medicinal purposes, such as pain control, have access to it. The government could tax the sale of marijuana and use this income to lower the national debt. "Marijuana is the safest therapeutically active substance known to man... safer than many foods we commonly consume." -- DEA Judge Francis L. Young, Sept. 6, 1988 Proponents of legalizing medical marijuana contend that it is wrong to deny patients relief from the pain of debilitating disease.

Recently, new information has emerged from studies by federal researchers at the National Institutes of Mental Health. Their reports have stated that THC and cannabidiol (CBD), a nonpsychoactive component, both appear to protect brain cells from the damage that often occurs during a stroke. (When the brain's blood supply is cut, as occurs during a stroke, THC and CBD act as powerful antioxidants, protecting the brain cells from exposure to toxic levels of the brain chemical called glutamate.) This finding also indicates that marijuana may hold medical value in the treatment of brain injuries and diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF MACK

The Institute of Medicine's 1999 report on medical marijuana stated, "The accumulated data indicate a potential therapeutic value for cannabinoid drugs, particularly for symptoms such as pain relief, control of nausea and vomiting, and appetite stimulation." (Source: Janet E. Joy, Stanley J. Watson, Jr., and John A. Benson, Jr., "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base," Division of Neuroscience and Behavioral Research, Institute of Medicine (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1999).

SUMMARY:

In conclusion, the latest in cannabis research, reported in a top science journal that explains in precise detail how cannabis kills tumors, cuts off their blood supply, and protects healthy cells. Medical Marijuana has value and can save lives like any other medication. Thus it should be made legal.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Taylor McCoy

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.

Title: Be an adult at 18, lower the drinking age.

As a representative of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. I encourage the Youth In Government Legislature to think carefully about our rights as a legal adult in the State of Missouri.

According to the US law, a person is unable to consume alcohol until the age of 21, and is considered an adult at age 18. At age 18 a citizen of our country can do many things; among these things they can get married, go to jail, consume tobacco products, have a say in our government by voting, enlist in the armed forces, and go to war and die for our country- yet they are still banned from products that have been involved in American Society for generations.

Instead of restricting the use of alcohol to the age of 21, the U.S. should allow all legal citizens age 18 and up the choice to consume alcohol or not. With this responsibility, our public schools should preach the importance of responsible drinking. If we do this, I believe it will contribute to a safer drinking community overall.

Our goal is to reduce the amount of alcohol related deaths, and this is not going to happen by simply pushing the age limit back, because quite frankly- many drink before the legal age limit. But we can achieve our goal by teaching the responsibility of not drinking and getting in a car, and updating the laws to the point where no citizen would even think about drinking and driving.

The only way to decrease alcohol related problems is to teach the responsibilities of drinking, instead of just simply putting an age limit on it, and letting young men "Go wild" when they turn 21.

SUMMARY:

I am in support of lowering the drinking age in Missouri to 18. With lowering the drinking age must come the education of responsible drinking to all citizens.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Pat McHugh

Delegation: Kirkwood

Organization: Alternative Fuel Source

Title: A firmer approach to finding alternative energy sources for our everyday life

The company I will be representing is the Alternative Fuel Source Corporation. The general idea of this company is to find ways to separate from our increasing dependency upon limited resources, mainly gasoline. The resources we depend on now will eventually run out, so Alternative Fuel Source tries to ensure mankind will be far past this eventual outcome, and depending upon another source, such as ethanol or solar power.

As a supporter of this company, it will be my goal to push for laws restricting the use of gasoline in our country. This is by far the greatest natural resource we depend on, and it is one that will run out. I will fight for any bill supporting the use of an alternative energy source.

The reason I support this company's cause is because I see the threat. I know that gasoline will run out. I also know that by continuing the use of gasoline, we are hurting our environment. So it seems to me that the first priority of this country should be to find another energy source, particularly for our automobiles, which are the greatest consumers of gasoline. I believe that if we are still dependant upon gasoline when it runs out, society itself will collapse.

SUMMARY:

I will fight for bills that call for a use of an alternative source of energy rather than, mainly, gasoline. But I will also fight for other changes besides gasoline.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Lindsey Morrison

Delegation: Parkway South

Organization: Missouri Department of Transportation

Title: A Primary Safety Belt Law for the State of Missouri.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) is a state agency that works with the people of Missouri, transportation partners, other local and state agencies, state and federal legislators to provide a "safe and efficient transportation system for the people of Missouri." The mission of the department is to "provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri." A few of the departments main goals are uninterrupted traffic flow, smooth and unrestricted roads and bridges, safe transportation, and road visibility.

As the secretary for the department of transportation I urge the Missouri youth legislators to support a primary safety belt law.

Each year many Missourians die due to a traffic crash, and 68% of those who perish are not wearing safety belts. A primary safety belt law could prevent over 90 deaths and 1,000 injuries each year. This law would not only save lives, it would save money for taxpayers. 231 million dollars are year would be saved in costs linked to car accidents. Also, the state would gain 16 million dollars in federal funds for transportation purposes. The use of safety belts in Missouri is declining and this needs to stop. From 2005 to 2006 the safety belt use in Missouri dropped from 75.2% to 74.4%. This needs to be stopped The best solution for this deadly problem is making the current secondary safety belt law a primary law. Out of over 500 traffic laws, safety belts are one of very few considered secondary enforcement. A primary law would make it possible for a police officer to pull a person over for the sole reason of not being buckled up. The consequence would be a 10\$ ticket. An enforcement of a primary safety belt law would benefit all of Missouri by saving money, but more importantly, saving lives.

SUMMARY:

I support legeslation that supports a primary safety belt law for the state of Missouri. I will oppose legeslation against the enactment of a primary safety belt law.

**MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER**

Lobbyist: Caitlin Murphy

Delegation: St. Joseph's

Organization: Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Title: Lowering the BAC (blood alcohol content) level for repeat offenders

As a representative of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to help stop drunk driving.

MADD does not oppose the consumption of alcohol, but rather the abuse of alcohol consumption. Alcohol-impaired driving is one of the most frequently committed violent crimes in the United States, killing more than 15,000 people a year, and injuring more than 500,000 a year. MADD advocates for the elimination of drunk driving, support for victims of drunk driving and their families, and prevention of underage drinking.

As was learned from Prohibition, banning alcohol consumption is not a reasonable proposal, and will only create, not solve, problems. It is also not what MADD is about. However, more severe punishment of drunk drivers, especially repeat-offenders, could help dramatically reduce the number of alcohol-related injuries and deaths.

There are many problems related to drunk driving, yet one problem seems to stand out above the rest: the lack of punishment of drunk drivers, especially repeat offenders.

It is understandable that everyone makes mistakes, yet if a lesson is not learned, the mistake will probably be repeated.

Approximately 1/3 of all drivers arrested for driving under the influence are repeat offenders. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, these irresponsible drivers are 40% more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than those without any DUIs. Current punishments allow for these high-risk drivers to go back onto the streets with little or no chastisement, and so they do not learn the error of their ways. By allowing them to get back behind the wheel, we are increasing the risk of fatalities.

In Maine, a law was passed that lowered the BAC limit for previously convicted drunk drivers to .05. After this legislation was passed, the state saw a 25% decrease in the number of fatalities involving repeat offenders. If Missouri were to lower the

**MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF MURPHY**

legal BAC to .05 for repeat offenders only, I believe that there would be a dramatic decrease in the number of alcohol-related deaths.

Three in ten people in the US will be involved in an alcohol-related accident at some time in their lives. Because of this staggering statistic, along with alcohol-related crashes costing the public an estimated \$114.3 billion annually, I suggest that the state seriously consider improving its restrictions on repeat offenders.

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation designed to help reduce the number of alcohol-related traffic accidents. This includes increasing the penalties on drunk drivers, especially repeat offenders. I will oppose any legislation that will let drunk drivers walk away from an accident with little to no punishment.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Caitlin Murphy

Delegation: St. Joseph's

Organization: Citizens for Missouri's Children

Title: Increasing Health Care Eligibility & Affordability for Missouri's Children

CMC is the voice for Missouri's children. As a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest group, CMC advocates for public policy that advances the rights of Missouri's children in four main areas: child protection, early care and education, mental health, and health care. CMC also works to raise public awareness by educating and mobilizing citizens.

As a representative of Citizens for Missouri's Children, I encourage the Youth in Government legislation to vote to allow every child in Missouri the right to quality, affordable health care.

Approximately 100,000 Missouri children currently do not have any form of health insurance. As a result, many of these children are not getting their health care needs met.

These children are not just from non-working families. In fact, 60% of uninsured Americans are full-year, full-time workers. However, access to employer-sponsored health insurance coverage is decreasing. Missouri does have some public health care programs for children from low-income families such as SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program). However, the eligibility rates are low, and because of the increasing number of people needing public coverage, it does not guarantee access to health care for all Missouri's children. The health of Missouri's children is at risk, and something needs to be done.

CMC has proposed a few different solutions to Missouri's health care problem. One solution is to provide employers with incentives to give their employees full health care coverage. While the private market is more efficient and less expensive, CMC recognizes that the public system is the only option for some families. CMC has created a specific, ideal health care system based on four main pillars: comprehensive health care; universal eligibility; high quality health care; and accessible, affordable, and available health services. Missouri needs to restructure its health care system so that it will allow more Missouri children health care access.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUATION OF MURPHY

The cost of health-care premiums is rising. If Missouri does not reform its current system, the rate of uninsured Missourians will continue to increase and begin to include citizens above the low-income level.

I urge you to speak for the uninsured children of Missouri and help grant every child in Missouri access to the health care and coverage that he or she needs.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislation that would increase the affordability, accessibility, and quality of health care for Missouri's children. I will oppose any legislation that will cut funding or decrease eligibility rates in Missouri's health insurance programs, such as Medicaid and SCHIP.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Thomas Murphy

Delegation: Carondelet

Organization: Associated Industries of Missouri

Title: Lowering the Costs of Healthcare

Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM) is one of the largest lobbying groups in the state. AIM has helped get several bills passed; including Senate bill 1 (2005); regarding workers compensation. Since AIM's beginning AIM has stood up for small businesses. AIM has more than 300,000 members all of which support the small business owner.

AIM is lobbying to lower the cost of health care for small business owners. I urge Youth in Government legislature to do so. The average business owner's cost of health care in the state of Missouri is \$11500 for a family plan. As government officials, it is your responsibility to serve the common people and lowering the cost of health care will do so.

Over 19 percent of small business employees are without healthcare because their employer cannot afford to give them that benefit. Because of a lack of healthcare, preventable illnesses cause eight out of nine deaths in the U.S.A. According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of prescription drugs has been rising at 1.5 times the rate of inflation. Without healthcare, the average family cannot afford the medication needed to survive.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislature in their attempt to lower the cost of healthcare for small business owners.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Thomas Murphy

Delegation: Carondelet

Organization: YMCA

Title: Tax Deductions

The YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) is an organization for men, women of all ages dedicated to a healthy spirit, mind, and body. The YMCA does not turn anyone away for inability to pay for memberships. Therefore, the YMCA is often short of the money needed to pay for programs or equipment. The YMCA gets most of this money from grants from other organizations such as the United Way.

Due to the fact that the United Way donates to the YMCA, there is a direct correlation between the successes or failure of the United Way and that of the YMCA. It is for that reason that I, as a lobbyist for the YMCA, urge legislature to give the United Way an increased tax deduction.

Donors to the United Way are sometimes given a deduction on state income taxes; I would like to see donors always be allowed a tax deduction. In 2005 the Missouri House of Representatives passed a bill giving many tax deductions to United Way donors, however; this bill did not affect non-itemizers. I would like to give a tax deduction to non-itemizers. If this were done, more people would donate; the YMCA could receive more money for programs for the young, the elderly, the rich, the poor, men and women.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislature wishing to give tax deductions to United Way donors.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Taylor Roberts

Delegation: Marquette

Organization: He Foster and Adoptie Care Coalition

Title: Lobbyist: Taylor Roberts
Delegation: YIG Delegation
Organization: Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition
Title: Increased Funding for the Foster and adoptive Care Coalition and its Affiliates

The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition is a nonprofit organization set on actively seeking homes for children in the foster and adoptive care system. The FACC unify a community of adoptive and foster parents, child welfare professionals, and 38 member organizations. Since 1985 the FACC has offered a variety of services, all oriented towards benefitting the children of the foster and adoptive care system, to the greater St. Louis community.

As a representative for the FACC I compel Youth in Government to increase funding for the FACC and its 38 other member organizations that include but are not limited to the Boys and Girls Town of Missouri, Citizens for Missouri's Children, and the Family Resource Center.

Children are the basis of our society and the building blocks of new discovery. They are our future leaders and learners of the world and thus will continue to shape our society long past our lifetimes. It is about time that we take the strides to aid our futures. With around 1,000 children in need of foster homes and 100 kids on top of the 1,000 entering the foster care system every month, immediate action is needed. After all, the FACC strives to foster a more stabilized home environment for these children so that they may grow into their own and participate in society as adept adults and citizens.

SUMMARY:

Summary: I will support any and all promotions of the FACC and oppose legislation that pulls funding from the FACC and/or any of the other 38 member organizations affiliated with the FACC.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Taylor Roberts

Delegation: Marquette

Organization: Greenpeace

Title: Lobbyist: Taylor Roberts
Delegation: YIG Delegation
Organization: Greenpeace
Title: Save the Planet Through Greenpeace

“Never doubt that a group of thoughtful , committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that has,” Margaret Mead, an American cultural anthropologist, once said. And Greenpeace gives these “committed citizens” an outlet to change the world. Greenpeace is a community of activists that have grown into an international organization implanted with the simple cause of saving the planet.

As a representative for Greenpeace, I urge Youth in Government to support increased funding for Greenpeace and other organizations with the same purpose of protecting and preserving our planet.

We are only gifted with one planet, and this Earth is just that. It is a gift to be cherished and well taken care of because the Earth is our home, our one and only home at that. For nearly 30 years, Greenpeace has been setting up camp in city streets, ocean shores, and factory door steps in peaceful demonstrations to save the whales, the atmosphere, and on a whole, the planet. It is beautiful to give back to our planet that has given us, the human race, so much for millennia upon millennia and Greenpeace allows us that outlet to give back to the planet. It would be beneficial to the planet as well as its occupants to support funding for Greenpeace so that we can continue to live in a harmonious partnership with our planets for many years to come.

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that support promotions of Greenpeace and oppose legislation that pulls funding from Greenpeace and/or any other organizations, both local and global, that fight for the continuation of this planet as a healthy being.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Courtney Schnieders

Delegation: Jefferson City

Organization: Missouri Right to Life

Title: Limiting Access to Abortion

The Missouri Right to Life is a statewide organization of volunteer citizens of different backgrounds and experiences who believe that all humans have a fundamental, unalienable, natural right to life regardless of biological development, health function, religion, sex, race, or condition of dependency.

As a representative of the Missouri Right to Life, I encourage the Missouri Youth in Government Legislature to pass legislation that will limit the access to abortion. Access to abortion needs to be limited because abortion is the same thing as murder. I do not believe abortion should be illegal because a woman has the right to choose but the accesses should be limited to make it harder for a woman to receive an abortion. In the Supreme Court case “Roe v. Wade” abortion is permitted under certain circumstances, such as if the pregnancy is unplanned or under twenty-four (24) weeks of progress. Women should only be able to have an abortion if the birth of the child is a threat to the mother’s life.

The Missouri Right to Life does not only deal with preventing abortion but also Infanticide and Euthanasia. Infanticide is the killing of an infant; infanticide in children under the age of one is at an American homicide rate of eleventh (11th) in the world. Euthanasia is the act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly ill or injured individuals.

SUMMARY:

I will support any bills that limit access to abortion, while opposing any bills that propose we make abortion more affordable and accessible.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Courtney Schnieders

Delegation: Jefferson City

Organization: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Title: Banning Corporal Punishment in Missouri Public Schools

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is the administrative arm of the State Board of Education. It is primarily a service agency that works with educators, legislators, government agencies and citizens to maintain a strong public education system. Through its statewide school-improvement initiatives and regulatory functions, the Department strives to assure that all citizens have access to high-quality public education.

As a representative of the DESE, I encourage that the Missouri Youth in Government Legislature passes legislation that will make the use of corporal punishment in public schools illegal.

Corporal punishment has been used throughout history; although seen in many different forms such as: flogging, whipping, branding, and facial or bodily mutilation of all types. The United States is one of three countries that still allow corporal punishment; twenty-seven states have banned corporal punishment in schools; the remaining twenty-three states are mostly Southern and Midwestern states.

Schools are the only institutions that allow corporal punishment; it has been outlawed in both the military and in prisons. Missouri law requires that every school district define whether or not they utilize corporal punishment; however, there is no limit on the number of swats an administrator can give, often resulting in child abuse.

Suggested alternate punishments to corporal punishment are: in-school suspension (ISS), out-of-school suspension (OSS), and detentions.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislation that proposes corporal punishment be banned in Missouri public schools while opposing any legislation that protects corporal punishment in schools.

**MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER**

Lobbyist: David Silverstein

Delegation: Pembroke Hill

Organization: Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Title: A Summarization and Description in Support of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the protection, maintenance and awareness about the natural resources in the state of Missouri. It delegates responsibility for the execution of these jobs and is in charge of funds towards their end. As Missourian's, many of us do not realize the full extent to which the Department of Natural resources is enrolled in our daily life. It is keen on environmental improvement, disposal of hazardous waste, drinking water resources, the state park system, energy consumption, and field management to name a few. The Department of Natural Resources aims to keep Missouri a clean, efficient, and environmentally conservative state with the means of legislation, funds, and management.

As a representative in the governor's council of the Missouri Department of Natural resources, I urge Youth in Government Legislation to support increased responsibility and funding for the department, as well as any legislation brought forward with the primary intention of encouraging research and advocacy of new environmentally conservative technologies.

As other states in the union constantly advance with new, more efficient environmental technology (such as utilization of wind, solar, and thermal energy) Missouri has been struggling to keep up. We are, as of August 2007, getting almost 85% of our energy from burning coal. What's even more surprising is that a huge portion of the coal that we burn is imported from surrounding states (namely Pennsylvania). We are not only becoming more dependent on out-of-state coal and energy, but we are utilizing one of the most polluting energy sources available. With the thought of saving a quick buck now, we are creating an immense long term cost of cleaning up our environment and catching up to our neighbors even more in the realm of energy independence. The Department of Natural Resources is working to catch Missouri up and research the ways in which Missouri's own natural and renewable resources can be used to increase independence and, ultimately, lower energy costs while raising efficiency.

**MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF SILVERSTEIN**

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that supports funding and research towards renewable energy resources and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and oppose legislation that either pulls funding or research from it, or in any way inhibits Missouri's advancement of energy and natural resource conservation.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Porsha Stewart

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Homeless Adults and Children

Title: Providing Support to Homeless Shelters and Foster Care Programs

As a representative of Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Homeless Adults and Children, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to help Missouri's homeless adults and children.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Homeless Adults and Children is dedicated to resolving the homeless epidemic in Missouri by preventing some of the common causes of homelessness and providing assistance to homeless shelters and foster care programs. People become homeless for various reasons including lack of affordable housing and lack of options of places to live when they are evicted from their homes or discharged from institutions, such as hospitals and prisons.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Homeless Adults and Children have the goal of providing more options for affordable housing and other assistance programs to help people become economically sufficient.

Specific approaches are to persuade the legislature to provide additional State funding to homeless shelters and foster care programs that provide transitional housing systems. Also, providing temporary education, vocational, and coaching to reduce the length of time people remain homeless and provide a path for success for children.

We encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to provide additional funding to organizations aimed towards ending homelessness for all people.

SUMMARY:

I will support all legislative efforts to end homelessness including any financial assistance for organizations providing support for homeless people and children. I will oppose any legislation that reduces funding that benefits homeless people.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Porsha Stewart

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Students for Public School Improvement

Title: Provide Funds For Improving Public Schools

As a representative of Northwest Academy Students For Public School Improvement, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to help raise funds and help improve public schools.

Northwest Academy Students for Public School Improvement is dedicated to providing support and funding to public schools in need. The many problems in public schools are lacking attention, and many issues are being overlooked. Facilities open to students and faculty are in poor condition, and in need of repair. Although issues in the schools are addressed, sometimes nothing is done to improve the problems.

Northwest Academy Students for Public School Improvement's goal is to provide help and necessities to the public schools, and promote the idea of public school improvement into the eye of the community.

Specific approaches are to provide federal and state funding to public schools in need of improvement. This will give the schools money to upgrade basic needs such as desks, computers, restrooms, and classrooms for the students who attend. Another step that could be taken to improve the public schools would be gain community involvement. Community service could be used in fundraisers to gain more money for the schools, and the community can also assist in cleaning the area of the school to make for a better environment.

We encourage our legislature to take a stronger stand in helping improve the conditions of public schools.

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation that provides funding and assistance for public schools in need. I oppose any and all legislation that reduces funding intended to improve conditions of public schools.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Hannah Thames

Delegation: Visitation

Organization: Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division

Title: Raising the Eligibility Requirement for Child Care Subsidies in Missouri

The core functions of the Department of Social Services are children protection, youth rehabilitation, maintaining and strengthening families, and helping individuals become self-supporting. This department also helps Missouri citizens in need gain access to affordable health care. The Missouri Child Care Subsidy program not only helps disadvantaged children access quality early childhood development programs that promise high returns for youth, families, taxpayers, and the Missouri Government but also provides subsidies, or financial aid, for low-income parents to purchase quality, affordable child care. To be eligible, parents must be either working or attending school and make no more than 127% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). With the current system, once the parent earns \$1.00 over 127% FPL, he or she is immediately cut off and no longer eligible for assistance. At the current 127% FPL, Missouri now ranks 46th in the nation for child care subsidy eligibility.

As a representative for the Children's Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services, I urge Youth in Government Legislation to support an increase in the child care subsidy eligibility rate and to implement a gradual curve instead of an immediate cut off from access to Missouri government child care subsidies.

By investing in high quality early education, Missouri ultimately reduces the amount spent on special education, social welfare program, and the criminal justice system. As previous economic studies have shown, every dollar spent on quality early child care programs returns nearly two dollars in the short term to the state economy by increasing the earning potential of working parents. Longer term returns range from \$3.75 to \$17 per dollar since children are more likely to be successful in school and in the future workforce as adults.

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that promotes access to child care – an investment in early childhood education and working families that produces long-term social and economic benefits.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Emily VanMaele

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: Missouri Department of Insurance (DIFP)

Title: Proposal for Allowing Health Insurance Companies to Charge More for Morbidly Obese People.

As a representative of The Missouri Department of Insurance, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to accept proposals or any legislation that would allow health insurance companies to charge higher premium rates to morbidly obese people (those who have a BMI >40).

The mission and purpose for the DIFP is to efficiently and effectively encourage a fair and open market for consumer service industries. 47.5 billion dollars are spent annually on obesity health care problems, furthermore each year all Missourians are forced to pay increasing health insurance rates. Traumatic growth trends in obesity in the U.S. has more than tripled in the past ten years. The severity of the situation is not to be taken lightly.

The benefits of such proposal(s) include but are not limited to:

- possible lower premium rates for non-obese people
- possible start of weight loss in population
- possible lower health problems
- promote awareness of the dire situation
- promote need to change in lifestyles
- possible extension of life expectancy
- possible improved health rates

Statistics show that 64% of Missourians are overweight or obese. The effect of obesity on the Missouri citizens is great, which is why this issue needs to be addressed now. This is not a question of ethics or morals, but what is best for the people in Missouri. Helping people realize that obesity is a problem and should be corrected allows the community to right the wrong. Obesity was a problem in the beginning, but now- it has gotten out of control. The proposal that I support, and all other legislation pertaining, are the correct answer(s) to the enigma of not only beloved Missouri, but also the nation.

In implementing such proposals, there would be no cost to the Department. The actual insurance companies and employers would have control over the policies and the choice to implement them.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONTINUATION OF VANMAELE

We must rely upon our legislatures, to make change health insurance premium policies, and in hindsight improve the quality of life for Missourians.

SUMMARY:

With the ever increasing insurance rates, I fully support any proposals allowing health insurance companies to charge higher premiums for morbidly obese people, then more (non-obese) people would benefit (possible lower premium rates, possibly lower risk of health problems, possible extension of life expectancy, etc.) There would be no cost to the Department in implementing proposal, and would go into effect as soon as it is accepted.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Elijah Williams

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Public Safety

Title: Solving the Problem with Abandoned Buildings in St. Louis, Missouri

As a representative of Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Public Safety, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to improve public safety in St. Louis City.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Public Safety is dedicated to improving public safety in its community by solving the problem with abandoned buildings and vacant houses. Abandoned buildings encourage criminal activity by providing a place for criminals to sell drugs, loiter, and participate in violent behavior. Abandoned buildings and vacant houses also bring down the overall quality of neighborhoods. People are discouraged from buying property and families are discouraged from moving into neighborhoods where there is abandoned property.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Public Safety have the goal of removing or refurbishing abandoned property in St. Louis City neighborhoods and imposing heavy fines on property owners who fail to take responsibility for their property.

Specific approaches are to provide funding to organizations such as Problem Properties Unit that have the mission of redeveloping abandoned property in St. Louis, MO.

We encourage the Missouri legislature to enforce the existing vacant property and nuisance laws such as charging a fee or putting a lien against property that is vacant and in violation of City ordinances. The State should also organize and support organizations that provide upkeep and monitoring of abandoned property.

SUMMARY:

I will support all legislative efforts to enforce vacant property and nuisance laws and any efforts to solve the problems abandoned buildings create.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Elijah Williams

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Responsibility

Title: Provide Public Awareness, Promote Police Responsibility, and Prevent Police Brutality in Missouri

As a representative of Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Responsibility, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to promote police responsibility and protect the public from police brutality.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Responsibility is dedicated to providing public awareness about police cruelty and brutality. We believe that is imperative for the good of society that the public has a positive, working relationship with police. People are physically and verbally harassed, unfairly targeted, falsely accused without probable cause, and sometimes even killed. These are not often reported because citizens feel powerless against policemen, because they see policemen as powerful representatives of their government. When complaints are reported, they are not taken seriously by police departments and instead blame is put on the victim of the abuse. Any discipline that the police officers are given is often lenient or the bare minimum disciplinary action required.

Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Responsibility feel that it is the responsibility of the police to protect, and not to harass and abuse their power. Northwest Academy Student Advocates for Police Responsibility's goal is to provide public awareness about police brutality and citizen's rights in regard to police, and to encourage harsher, consistent punishments for police who abuse their positions of power.

Specific approaches are to provide funding to police departments for better training about their responsibility to protect the public in an ethical manner, and to increase outside supervision and evaluation of police activity. There should be a push to hire more police chiefs and police administrators who are sensitive and aware of the issue of police brutality, and have a strong history of understanding and protecting citizens' rights. Through different media and free classes, the public should be educated about their rights and responsibilities as citizens. An anonymous hotline to report incidents of police irresponsibility, as well as positive police behavior should be established, so that good cops are rewarded for their good behavior.

We encourage our legislature to take a stronger stand in promoting police responsibility and preventing police brutality in Missouri.

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUATION OF WILLIAMS

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation that provides funding to initiatives that work towards solving the problem of police brutality, promoting police responsibility, and educating the public about their rights. I also support any legislation that imposes stricter penalties for policemen who abuse their positions of power. I oppose any and all legislation that reduces funding for programs that would reduce police brutality. I also oppose any and all legislation that reduce and make more lenient penalties for police irresponsibility.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Ronnisha Williams

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Northwest Academy Students Against Animal Cruelty

Title: Provide Public Awareness and Prevent Animal Cruelty in Missouri

As a representative of Northwest Academy Students Against Animal Cruelty, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to protect animals.

Northwest Academy Students Against Animal Cruelty is dedicated to providing public awareness about animal cruelty and abuse. Animals are physically abused, neglected, abandoned, starved, tortured, and killed but such cases are not reported as often as they happen. Even when the cases are reported, the people causing their suffering are punished leniently or are not punished at all.

Northwest Academy Students Against Animal Cruelty's goal is to provide public awareness about animal cruelty and to encourage harsher punishments for animal abuse.

Specific approaches are to provide state funding to organizations, such as the Humane Society and Pet-Abuse.org, which provide an opportunity for animal abuse to be reported and acknowledged as well as provide shelter and treatment for abused animals. Also, amending existing laws to make particular cases of animal abuse a felony for a first offense to discourage people from abusing their animals by making it known that their punishment will fit their crime.

We encourage our legislature to take a stronger stand in preventing animal abuse in Missouri.

SUMMARY:

I will support any and all legislation that provides funding for organizations that tackle the problem with animal abuse. I also support any legislation that imposes harsher penalties for people that abuse their animals. I oppose any and all legislation that reduces funding for organizations geared toward protecting animal rights and any laws that reduce punishments for animal offenders.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Ronnisha Williams

Delegation: Northwest Academy

Organization: Student Advocates for Teenage Females

Title: Provide Emotional Wellness for Teenage Females

As a representative of Student Advocates for Teenage Females, I encourage the Youth in Government Legislature to provide emotional wellness for teenage females.

Student advocates for teenage females is dedicated to provide public awareness about the emotional stress and hardship associated with teenage pregnancies. Pregnant teenagers go through despair and loneliness during the decision making process of whether to have a baby or abort it. Pregnant teenagers often make the decision in solitude because they lack the money and resources to make a well-informed choice.

Student Advocates for Teenage Females' goal is to provide public awareness about teenage pregnancies and reduce the stigma of both pregnancy and abortion.

Specific approaches are to provide funding to organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, which provide healthcare and counseling services to pregnant teenagers in need of help.

We encourage our legislature to take a stronger stand in supporting teenage females.

SUMMARY:

I will support all legislation that provides assistance for the emotional and physical wellness of teenage females.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Kelsi Wilson

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: National Abortion Federation

Title: Protect Women's Right to Make Private Medical Decisions

The National Abortion Federation is a national association of professional abortion providers in the United States which offers quality training and services to abortion providers and unbiased information and referral services to women. This national association works to support both women seeking an abortion and the health care professionals providing abortion services. The National Abortion Federation accomplishes this goal by way of providing NAF health care professionals with education and professional support needed to give quality care, providing medical, provider, and patient perspectives in legal debates about abortion policies, and supplying valuable resources to women to insure informed decisions concerning their pregnancies.

As a representative for the National Abortion Federation, I urge the youth in Government Legislation to support laws protecting women's right to legal and safe abortion care.

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of a women's right to choose abortion, yet the right to choose is still not secure. Access to abortion and abortion clinics has been severely limited. 87% of U.S. counties do not have any identifiable abortion provider, even those that do, face a shortage of well-trained abortion providers. Many states have also passed laws to further complicate the accessibility of the choice of abortion. If actions like this are continually allowed to be taken, the accessibility to abortion services will be further lessened, and eventually, eradicated, forcing women to resort to illegal options risking their safety.

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that support women's right to choose and oppose legislation that further complicates or restricts a woman's right to seek abortion services.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Kelsi Wilson

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: Distilled Spirits Council of the United States

Title: Protect Distilleries' Voice on Taxes

The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States is a national trade association representing America's leading distillers. This association represents the voice of nearly 80% of all distilled spirit brands in the country's voice and legislation in Washington. In the past decades, The DISCUS association has developed hundreds of organizations addressing forms of alcohol abuse. Many of these organizations are non-profit and funded solely by America's leading distilleries.

As a representative for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, I urge Youth in Government Legislation to support legislation against the increase of taxes on distilled spirits.

The distilled spirits industry is a vital part of the United States economy. Over 1.2 million people are employed through the manufacturing, distribution and sales of distilled spirits, and 100 billion dollars are generated by the distilled spirits industry annually. Yet, distilled spirits are one of the most heavily taxed consumer products in the nation due to legislation trying to prevent the sales of distilled spirits in the United States. This raise in taxes in turn has a devastating effect throughout the hospitality industry. Bars, restaurants, liquor stores, hotels, convention and tourism all rely on major profit created by beverage alcohol. Without this component all of these industries would suffer along with the distilled spirits industry.

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that supports the interests of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States and oppose legislation that jeopardizes these interests through high taxation of alcoholic beverages.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Matt Wolf

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: American Airlines

Title: Green House Gas Inventory and Fuel Smart Program Initiatives

American Airlines is the largest scheduled passenger airline, with over 2,100 flights throughout the globe, in cooperation with American Eagle Airlines, operating over 1,800 regional flights throughout the United States daily. At this number, parent company of American Airlines and American Eagle, AMR Corps. began a green house gas (GHG) inventory as a tool to identify GHG emissions reduction opportunities and establish protocols.

Under the statistics of AMR's inventory and World Resource Institute GHG protocol, action to actually conserve fuel and reduce emissions are met under AMR's Fuel Smart program. Fuel Smart targets problems with solutions such as installing winglets, using minimal or no exterior paint, selecting most fuel efficient routs, and avoiding the usage of excess fuel as much as possible. So far, Fuel Smart has yielded positive results: "By the end of 2006, Fuel Smart initiatives accounted for the company-wide savings of 95 million gallons of fuel."

As a representative of American Airlines, I advocate the Youth in Government Legislation to implement higher standards for all airlines to reduce emissions and conserve fuel. In compliance with the Kyoto Protocol, parties of the Annex 1 are required to report their annual emissions of Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, Perfluorocarbons, Hydrofluorocarbons, and Sulphur hexafluoride, which are matched in AMR's GHG inventory, and all have a global warming potential (GWP).

Global warming, separate from ozone depletion, is caused from GHGs gradually capturing heat in the atmosphere. In the past 100 years, these GHGs have raised the global temperature one degree Fahrenheit. Subtle changes in the global temperature are connected to the loss of polar ice caps, rising sea levels, and disruption of sea currents, affecting the coral reef and marine life. It is the responsibility of major emission sources to do their part in tending the environment.

SUMMARY:

I will support any legislation concerning stricter standards mitigating airline emissions, fuel conservation, and increased funding required for equipment and organization of such efforts. I will oppose legislation which denies the implementation of stricter standards or increased funding to support new standards.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Matt Wolf

Delegation: Lee's Summit North

Organization: GreenPeace

Title: Initiate Federal Funding for GreenPeace Organization

GreenPeace is simply a group of volunteer activists and supporters who use peaceful action and communication to protest and solve environmental issues around the world. The organization began in 1971, and today has spread to over thirty different countries, with almost 3 million supporters who collectively provide the funds for GreenPeace. However, GreenPeace could benefit from increased funding in providing proper equipment and supplies.

As a representative of GreenPeace, I urge the Youth in Government Legislature to increase funding to support its efforts in protecting the environment against the effects of global warming.

With a growing concern over the developing effects of global warming, GreenPeace is trying its best to voice these concerns to the government and take action to prevent these effects. With added government funding, GreenPeace would be able to establish new organizations over seas, advertise their efforts, and overall increase the amount of members. So far, the suggestions, skills, and knowledge of volunteers has propelled GreenPeace international to revolutionize the refrigeration industry by creating and manufacturing non-HFC refrigerators, with ordinary refrigerators contributing to global warming. Increased funding would also supply GreenPeace with more equipment and technology to discover alternative energy sources from fossil fuels.

SUMMARY:

I will support legislation that initiates or increases federal funding for environmental protection organizations with efforts to mitigate the effects of global warming and are not currently funded, and oppose legislation silencing or pulling funding from said organizations.

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LOBBYIST POSITION PAPER

Lobbyist: Asha Xu

Delegation: Columbia

Organization: Department of Education

Title: Rewarding those with a difficult course load with scholarship money.

The Department of Education has the sacred responsibilities of strengthening the commitment to assuring access to equal educational opportunities for every individual. Adequate funding for schools is an issue of great significance. Supplementing the efforts local school systems, the private sector, public and private nonprofit educational research institutions, community-based organizations, parents, and students to improve the quality of education is of great importance to the Department of Education. Encouraging the increased involvement of the public, parents, and students in Federal education programs is greatly urged by the Department of Education as support is an essential ingredient to the success of a student. Much of this department's efforts are also spent on promoting improvements in the quality and usefulness of education through supported research, evaluation, and sharing of information.

As a representative for the Missouri Department of Education I urge Youth in Government Legislation to give a \$500 scholarship to students for every Advanced Placement class taken.

It is time to target higher education. With the ever-globalizing society that we live in today, it is essential that every Missourian citizen be aware of the more than just the basics of math, science, social studies, and language. Without a class of educationally elite citizens, Missouri will soon fall behind the world market. The economy that we enjoy now would slowly deteriorate. During high school, Advance Placement (AP) course(s) should be promoted more and the tests should be offered more readily to students who are unable to pay. The Department of Education is also in full support of President Bush's American Competitiveness Initiative. This would strengthen math and science skills and offer more rigorous courses and workload in advanced classes.

To encourage students in secondary school to take AP classes, a \$500 scholarship for higher education will be awarded to any high school student who takes an AP class and gets a four (4) or higher on the national exam. The foundation for a successful college career is built in the early years of high school. The goal is to get high school students in the habit of challenging themselves and taking rigorous classes early on. This act targets the students who consider taking AP classes, but hesitate for fear of letting their Grade Point Averages (GPA) drop. Students who are

MISSOURI YMCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUATION OF XU

concerned about a heavy workload will also have more incentives to take the challenge of a more rigorous curriculum. Since there is a myriad of grading scales and grading systems across Missouri, some students do not have much incentive to take hard classes. This act will provide a uniform enticement for students to take AP course(s). For example, many schools do not weight grades; so, many students take honors classes so that their GPA and class ranking are higher. However, by enacting legislation that provides financial incentives for taking challenging courses, students will be more likely to take a chance with a more rigorous course.

Because this scholarship will be enacted by the state, it will encourage many intelligent students with potential to stay in Missouri. Though there are brilliant students in Missouri already, many academically ambitious students leave the Midwest to attend selective schools in the East and West Coasts. These students will become valuable alumnae to Missouri schools and benefit this state as a whole.

The major obstacle faced this year to achieve these goals is funding. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education currently has a budget of about \$3.67 billion dollars per year and the Department of Higher Education currently has \$1.19 billion dollars per year. With this, the department partially supports and enhances every student attending public secondary school in Missouri. With new implementations, funding would be regretfully cut from Adult Education National Leadership Activities, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, and Office of Civil Rights within the Department of Education. The money would be redistributed towards the abovesaid plans. Though it is regretful to cut funding from any program, we have to realize that educating the new generation and securing Missouri's future is far more prominent and yields much more benefits than re-educating the middle-aged.

SUMMARY:

I support legislation supporting increasing scholarships for rigorous classes and discourage legislation decreasing scholarships in general.