

Missouri State Senator Ed Emery

District 31



Summary

Legislative Biography

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Senator Emery is a native of Vernon County, Mo., where he worked with his father and grandfather in their feed and grain business. He graduated from The University of Missouri-Rolla with a degree in engineering and worked in the oil and gas industry until returning to Missouri in 1994. Senator Emery and his wife, Rebecca, reside in Lamar, Mo. They have four children, Elizabeth, Samuel, Daniel and Paul, and one grandchild.

Senator Emery is a member of Lamar First Baptist Church, Missouri Farm Bureau, National Rifle Association, Gun Owners of America, VFW Men's Auxiliary, Barton County Excel, Greenfield Chamber of Commerce, and the Air Force Academy Association of Graduates. He also served as executive director of Missouri Fair Tax.

Awards and Honors presented to Senator Emery while serving in the House include:
2010 Legislator of the year — Missouri Republican Assembly
2009 William Wilberforce Award — Concerned Women for America, Missouri Chapter
2008 Legislator of the year — Missouri Cable Telecommunications Association
2008 Legislator of the year — Missouri Energy Development Association
2008 Leadership award — Missouri Telecommunications Industry Association
2006 Legislator of the year — American Legislative Exchange Council

[Legislative Biography, [9.4.18](#)]

This week, ALEC and FreedomWorks introduce Missouri State Senator Ed Emery. Senator Emery represents the newly formed 31st District comprising Barton, Bates, Cass, Henry, and Vernon counties. He previously served four terms in the Missouri House representing the former 126th District. Senator Emery served on several House committees including Children and Families, Job Creation and Tax Reform. He also chaired the House Utilities Committee and the Special Committee on Immigration Reform. He is a native of Vernon County, Mo., where he worked with his father and grandfather in their feed and grain business. He graduated from The University of Missouri-Rolla with a degree in engineering and worked in the oil and gas industry until returning to Missouri in 1994. Senator Emery and his wife, Rebecca, reside in Lamar, Mo. They have four children, Elizabeth, Samuel, Daniel and Paul, and one grandchild.

Why did you run for office?

My state representative was term limited, and I had a desire to invest in my state and to continue the conservative direction my predecessor had begun. Conversations with my family and close friends confirmed my inclination to run, and the rest, as they say, is history. My senate race followed a few years later.

In your view, what is the biggest issue facing Missouri?

One of the big issues facing Missouri is infrastructure where we are falling behind on ports, roads, and bridges. I have resisted raising taxes to address the need because I believe Missourians are taxed enough. Any increased investment in infrastructure should come from existing revenue by re-prioritizing spending. Nevertheless, a measure passed the legislature this year and will be voted on by the citizens of Missouri in November that will increase fuel taxes. Two other concerns facing Missouri are the need for tort reforms especially in St. Louis and the need for modernizing education and providing parents with choices for their children's education.

If you could "wave your magic wand," what would you like to see immediately implemented in Missouri?

If I could wave a magic wand, I would implement ESA's and open enrollment, move money from Medicaid to infrastructure, and address venue and joinder issues in our courts.

Do you serve on any committees, if so which committees and why? How do you think you have impacted them?

I serve on the Gubernatorial Appointments Committee, Education, Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence, Government Reform, and I chair the Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee.

What project or law are you most proud of?

It has not been my goal to pass a great deal of legislation, but during my 14 years as a legislator, I have been pleased to help with bills to largely deregulate the telecommunication industry, to modernize the regulation of public utilities, and to reform collateral source law in Missouri courts.

How has ALEC helped you as a legislator?

The interaction with other state legislators and their experience is extremely helpful. Input from private sector members and scholarly presentations from highly respected think tanks from across the country have steepened my learning curve and inspired a reasoned and thoughtful approach to law making. The ALEC staff is an extraordinary resource of expertise on virtually any legislative issue. They are absolutely committed to assisting legislators to effectively serve our states and our constituents.

What is your favorite thing about Missouri?

I was born and raised in Missouri, but lived much of my adult life in various other states. There is so much to love about Missouri and make it worth defending and serving. Missouri is the “Show Me State” because Missourians don’t jump on every fad that pops up. Missouri’s largest industry is agriculture. I grew up in that environment and love the people here. I love the agricultural perspective on life, liberty, and independence. Probably my favorite thing about Missouri is that it is MY state. I believe God put me here on purpose and for a purpose. That is what drives me to do whatever I can to make my state as free and prosperous as it can be.

Can you share a fun fact about yourself that’s not in your official bio?

I am a member of The Gideons International and for decades have enjoyed distributing Bibles, speaking in churches, and introducing others to Jesus Christ as a part of that ministry.

ALEC membership/ties

- Signed Confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh ALEC Letter 2018
- ALEC Missouri State Co-chair, 2018
- Attended annual ALEC conference in Denver, 2017
- Signed on to ALEC SALT Letter to Congress in October 2016
- Signed ALEC letter in September 2014 to Google about CEO Eric Schmidt's comments about ALEC's position on climate change
- State Chairman, attended 2013 ALEC Annual Meeting
- Signed ALEC letter in 2013 to Senator Dick Durbin re: Durbin's request to identify ALEC's funders
- Signed ALEC Letter March 2010 against the Clean Air Act
- Signed ALEC Letter from July 2009 to Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi regarding the Affordable Care Act
- Named ALEC “Legislator of the Year” 2006

ALEC Legislation

Bill Title/Number	ALEC Model Bill	Support
SB 19 (2017)	Right to Work Act	Voted in favor
SB 238 (2013)	Right to Work Act	Sponsored
SB 276 (2013)	Virtual Public Schools Act	Sponsored

State Sen. Ed Emery repeatedly supported Right-to-Work bill legislation in Missouri. In 2013, Sen. Emery sponsored a bill that would prevent unions from negotiating contract provisions that require all workers, including non-members, to contribute to the costs of worker representation on the job. In February 2017, he threw his weight behind SB 19, a Right-to-Work bill that the citizens of Missouri roundly rejected in state-wide referendum in August 2018. A video captured by Progress Missouri reveals Sen. Emery admitting that right-to-work laws decrease workers' wages, and yet, he enthusiastically supports such policies [The Washington Post, [8.7.18](#); Progress Missouri, [1.8.2014](#); [ALEC](#)].

State Sen. Ed Emery sponsored a bill similar to ALEC's Virtual Public Schools Act in 2013. SB 276 expands online school offerings and authorizes the establishment of virtual charter schools. "Because virtual and online education company courses can be recognized as public schools, they are eligible to receive the same per pupil funding as traditional schools that provide classrooms, sports training facilities, lunch, and transportation, resulting in windfall profits for online 'schools.'" The legislation is similar in effect to previous ALEC legislation [[CMD](#); [ALEC](#)].

Other Hits

MO Sen. Ed Emery insinuated that porn is to blame for the violent acts that opened up a criminal investigation and cost Gov. Eric Greitens his executive seat. Following the revelation of an extramarital affair, Gov. Greitens stands accused of sexual abuse, intimidation, and blackmail. During the investigation into Gov. Greitens' criminal actions, Sen. Ed Emery sponsored a resolution designed to discourage the consumption of porn. In a legislative update, Sen. Emery alluded that his proposal could reduce abuse like that perpetuated by Eric Greitens. In a legislative update for the bill, Sen. Emery wrote, "In my opinion, what is unveiled by a personal moral failure may be a reflection of a disturbing and invasive social evil – that of the proliferation of pornography and modern culture's ambivalence toward it. Far too often, such behavior grows out of an exposure to pornography. No informed and right-minded person would deny that pornography is addictive and that it therefore can only be satisfied by increased dosages. Eventually the imagination is insufficient and only actions will satisfy. Where is the outcry against the evil of pornography?" [St. Louis Post Dispatch, [4.12.18](#); Legislative Report, [4.16.18](#)].

MO Sen. Ed Emery sponsored a bill that declares "gay marriage a parody." The resolution would deny the recognition of same-sex marriage and even alleges that sexual identity violates the U.S. Constitution's prohibition on favoring one religion over another, because any "self-asserted sex-based identity narrative" is actually "based on a series of naked assertions and unproven faith-based assumptions" [[SCR 54](#), Riverfront Times, [4.30.2018](#)].

At a GOP rally in 2016, Sen. Emery called homosexuality a "mental illness" that public education has normalized. Sen. Emery denounced public education by claiming that because educators in the U.S. don't teach Christianity, things like homosexuality and gender politics have become normalized. He

referred to homosexuality as a mental illness, and said the increased acceptance of homosexuality represents a "reversal of the character of America" [Missourian, [10.6.2016](#)].

MO Sen. Ed Emery is responsible for the introduction of an iteration of North Carolina's infamous "bathroom bill," which sought to discriminate against trans individuals in public spaces. During a hearing for the bill, citizens flooded the hearing room in opposition. Mazy Gilleylen, eleven, told the senators that she is a trans girl who has been using the girls' restroom for four years without problems. "It's just really no big deal," she said. "I just want to be able to go in, use the restroom with the doors closed and wash my hands. ... I don't want to hurt anyone, and I don't want anyone to hurt me" [[SB 98](#), Missourian, [5.13.2017](#); Missourian, [2.21.2017](#)].

MO Sen. Ed Emery misappropriated a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King in an attempt to justify a comparison made between abortions in the black communities and the Holocaust. During a debate on the Senate floor, Emery said that since "1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade*, 'Fifteen and a half million African American babies have been slain in abortions in that same period of time.' He went on to compare, the abortion rates in the African-American community to the Holocaust." Sen. Emery then evoked Martin Luther King, insisting, "Martin Luther King said, 'The negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice the lives of his children for comfort and safety.' That was Dr. Martin Luther King, great man. He was talking about abortion." In response to Sen. Emery's statements, local Missouri newspaper *The St. Louis American* reported that, "in fact, in 1960, King served on a committee for a Planned Parenthood study on contraception, explaining, "I have always been deeply interested in and sympathetic with the total work of the Planned Parenthood Federation." He repeatedly wrote about why family planning programs are important, and why they need to be funded by the government. In 1966, King received a Margaret Sanger award from Planned Parenthood "in recognition of excellence and leadership in furthering reproductive health and reproductive rights" [The St. Louis American, [4.21.18](#)].

MO Sen. Ed Emery claimed that during World War II, the Japanese were not afraid of U.S. armies, but rather, the guns owned by U.S. citizens at home. Sen. Emery credits the Second Amendment for protecting against a Japanese attack on the U.S. *mainland* during World War II. This ahistorical belief is not substantiated by serious historians [The Turner Report, [1.19.2013](#)]

In August 2018, voters overwhelming rejected Right-to-Work in a statewide referendum. Despite this, Senator Ed Emery still champions the anti-worker policy, stating that "the benefits of RTW are too numerous to justify giving up on the cause. A lot of companies won't look at Missouri without RTW, so we shouldn't give up on giving people choice in the workplace," He encouraged a county-centered approach, a tactic that has been used by Americans for Prosperity and other right-wing organizations. "Some states have had a lot of success implementing freedom-to-work laws at the county level. If enough counties do that, it compels the rest of the state to follow suit in order to compete with their adjoining counties. I'm hoping we can take a hard look at that" [Heartland Institute, [9.12.18](#)]