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PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Blunt Signs Assisted Living Legislation Into Law

Bill Provides Stronger Safety and Security for Seniors

Jefferson City, Missouri- Governor Matt Blunt today signed Senate Bill 616, sponsored by Sen. Bill Stouffer (R-Napton), which more clearly defines Assisted Living facilities, creates licensing procedures and requirements and requires that these facilities must develop a plan to protect the rights, privacy, and safety of facility residents.

"Senate Bill 616 gives Missouri Seniors and their loved ones who are seeking assisted living arrangements, better options, stronger safety procedures and improves the reliability of information provided by assisted living facilities," said Gov. Blunt. "My thanks go to Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, Missouri's Senior Advocate, who in cooperation with Sen. Bill Stouffer, and many other senior advocacy groups worked hard to pass this landmark legislation."

"This bill gives seniors, their families and loved ones the care, security and safety they expect and deserve" said Lt. Governor Kinder. He added, "Seniors will have better choices and the ability to work together with their caregivers to customize their care. I am proud to have worked with the AARP and numerous other senior advocacy groups to preserve Missouri seniors' independence and dignity."

Assisted Living facilities as those containing services consisting of social models based on the premise that the resident's unit is his or her home as defined in the legislation. The facility must employ a skilled staff large enough to provide twenty-four hour care, as well as have a written plan for the protection of all residents in the event of an emergency. Licensed assisted living facilities must also disclose to prospective resident's information regarding the services the facility is able to provide, costs of such services to the resident, and the conditions that will require discharge or transfer from the facility.

The legislation will become effective August 28, 2006.