

June 18, 2010

Whose Body?

In a famous Dorothy Sayers novel, a mysterious unidentified body is found and a murder victim is dismembered and dissected by students.

As in that story, the Bodies exhibition that is scheduled to open at the St. Louis Galleria is controversial, not because it displays dead bodies, but because we don't know whether the bodies were obtained ethically. I've introduced legislation (HR 5524) to prohibit the importation of plastinated human remains (as seen in the Bodies exhibit) from China because of human rights concerns that the Chinese government may be profiting from the remains of deceased political prisoners. [More ...](#)

Ensuring Jobs in the Defense Industry

Earlier this week, I hosted a forum in St. Louis for large and small defense industry leaders and state and local officials to discuss how to make Missouri more competitive in the defense and aerospace industry. Missouri leads the region with over \$12 billion in Department of Defense contracts awarded to companies in our state and nearly 160,000 employed statewide as a result of these contracts (2006 data). We discussed how to innovate, create jobs and strengthen Missouri's economy. [More ...](#)

DISCLOSE Act

In the name of election law reform, Speaker Pelosi is hoping to bring legislation (HR 5175) to the floor next week that will limit political speech that was protected and affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. Because of the onerous and expensive requirements in this legislation, Constitutional scholars and analysts say it will have a "chilling effect" on free speech and association, even creating different sets of rules

for some groups of people versus others.