

# SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

# Press Release

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## **Senate Democrats Introduce Michigan's First Legislative Blog**

*"Call of the Senate Democrats" to feature posts from Senators, focus on Democratic priorities for Michigan*

LANSING-Today Senate Democratic Leader Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) announced the launch of the Senate Democratic Caucus' blog, "Call of the Senate Democrats." This new forum will feature weekly posts from Senators and caucus staff, offering an insider perspective of the Capitol and focusing on the Senate Democrats' priorities for Michigan. Lansing's first legislative caucus blog can be found at <http://senate.michigan.gov/dem/blog.php>.

"Senate Democrats believe open government and active civic participation are essential for a strong democracy," said Schauer. "Our hope is that this blog will serve as an interactive forum where Senators can communicate directly with the people of Michigan as we work to revitalize our state's economy and create jobs."

Throughout the week following Governor Jennifer Granholm's State of the State address, "Call of the Senate Democrats" will feature running commentary from members of the Senate Democratic Caucus about efforts to move Michigan forward in 2008. In the future, the blog will highlight weekly Senate business, legislation, committee meetings and other key issues affecting state government.

"I firmly believe that blogs are an important tool for sharing ideas, interacting with the public, and examining what we do as elected officials," said State Senator Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit), Democratic Floor Leader. "Our constituents deserve honest and open government, and this blog will help us open the lines of communication with Michigan citizens as we continue the work of transforming our state's economy."

Studies have shown that an increasing number of citizens are getting their news information on the internet, and many newspapers around the state and country have already started blogs of their own to attract online readers. Numerous federal agencies, including the Speaker's Office and the Department of Health and Human Resources, have also started blogs in recent years.

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