

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3048___

WHEREAS, Missouri Governor Matt Blunt unveiled the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative in order to enhance educational opportunities in the state and to ensure that Missouri's employers and entrepreneurs continue to benefit from the greatest workforce in the world; and

WHEREAS, the governor's progressive and visionary proposal seeks to obtain these goals through advancing aid to college students in the health care field, capital to universities for important building projects, health care infrastructure, and assistance to Missouri's institutions through the Missouri Discovery Alliance, which is designed to maximize the economic impact of science and technology by attracting life science companies to develop commercial applications for research; and

WHEREAS, the initiative will not only provide an excellent opportunity for helping students and universities, but will also provide help to Missouri's working families and the state's economy by creating new jobs, spurring new economic activity and growth, and providing a return of moneys to the state's general revenue; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the governor's bold plan, funds derived from the initiative should also be used to address the healthcare needs of Missouri's citizens through infusing availability of care in medically underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, enhancing healthcare ensures a brighter future for Missouri's citizens and achieves the goal of the Missouri Senate to finding the best solutions for Missouri's students of all

ages, parents, and taxpayers:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby urge the governor to continue to work with the board of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority to implement the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative so that moneys derived from the Initiative be used to advance aid to college students, for capital to universities for necessary building projects, to fund endowed scholarships, and for the Missouri Discovery Alliance, as outlined in Conference Committee Substitute for SCS/HCS/HB 1022 (2006), except as provided for debt retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor of Missouri.