

For Immediate Release

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MAPA Seeks to Abolish Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission: Testifies at State Capital

Calls for Study to Determine Smart Sentencing Practices

What: Platte County Prosecuting Attorney and Board member of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA) **Eric Zahnd** will testify in Jefferson City regarding concerns over sentencing recommendations from Missouri Sentencing Advisory Commission (MoSAC). **Representative Stanley Cox** of District 118 and Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee is sponsoring legislation to abolish MoSAC. A press conference will be held by MAPA leaders to provide additional perspective and promote further study to develop recommendations that are proven to reduce recidivism. Representative Cox is scheduled to attend.

When: Wednesday, February 23, 2011, Hearing Scheduled for Noon
News Conference Scheduled for 2:15pm in Hearing Room 7

Where: Missouri State Capitol Building, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Why: Prosecutors are concerned about MoSAC's recommended sentences, arguing that one-size-fits-all recommendations are inappropriate and that MoSAC's recommendations for violent and sex offenses are unreasonably lenient. More recently, MoSAC has begun sharing recidivism data, but doing so in a way that prosecutors contend could be seriously misleading to judges and policymakers. Prosecutors believe that MoSAC's recommendations have little value because they are not based on rigorous scientific data.

The Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys was established in 1969 for the purpose of providing uniformity and efficiency in the discharge of duties and functions of Missouri prosecutors and their assistants. The Association today continues to further its purpose through extensive training programs and by working with the development of legislation that is important to Missouri prosecutors. For more information about MAPA, contact the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services at 573-751-0619 or visit our website at www.mops.mo.gov

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