

State Senator

Scott T. Rupp

District 2

Fiscal Conservatism

**Government
Accountability**

**Protecting the
Unborn**

**Autism Insurance
Reform**

**Ensuring
Individual
Freedoms**

Legislative Report – 2010



Protecting Unborn Lives

Senator Rupp continued his support of pro-life legislation in the state of Missouri this session. These efforts included drafting **SB 747**, which ultimately was enveloped into **SB 793**.

This measure includes language that prohibits your tax dollars from funding abortions in Missouri through the new federal health care bill.

Senate Bill 793 also contains language that enacts new requirements for women seeking an abortion, such as having the opportunity to hear the unborn child's heartbeat and view an ultrasound. The mother would also receive information that the baby may feel pain during the procedure, and she would be told of available counseling. She would also be given an explanation of the financial responsibilities regarding the father of the child.

Senate Bill 793 was sent to the governor's desk, and if signed, would become law on August 28, 2010.



Dear Constituent:

The 2010 legislative session was critical for the future of the state of Missouri. While challenges presented themselves, such as economic turmoil, rapidly declining state revenues, and federal mandates that threaten our freedom, I truly believe the work we accomplished in Jefferson City put Missouri on the right track to respond to those challenges and ensure our future.

My priorities for this session are detailed in this newsletter, but you can view all of my legislation on my Senate website. This session I served key leadership roles in our effort to balance the budget by "Rebooting Government." I fought to protect the lives of children by continuing Missouri's efforts to restrict abortion and by leading the effort to finally bring autism insurance reform to families. I also led our new effort to curtail government waste and be more accountable for how taxpayer dollars are spent.

As a citizen of the 2nd District, please remember that I am here to represent you. It is an honor and a privilege to be your voice in state government, and one that I have never taken lightly.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Rupp". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Autism Insurance Reform

After years of effort, the Missouri Legislature passed, and the governor signed, meaningful autism insurance reform that provides coverage to thousands of Missouri families.

House Bill 1311, navigated through the Legislature by Sen. Rupp, requires coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including coverage for applied behavior analysis, for up to \$40,000 annually, through the age of 18.

The bill restricts health carriers from refusing to issue or renew coverage simply because an individual is diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Parents had been paying premiums for their children's health care, yet when proven medical treatments were needed, they were denied coverage – some were even denied basic medical care. Research shows that with these therapies, 50 percent of children do not need special education or services by the first grade. This fairness and quality-of-life issue will show long-term cost savings to Missouri's education and social welfare systems and communities as a whole.

Families can begin purchasing coverage on Jan. 1, 2011.



Fiscal Conservatism

This year's budget faced the largest decline in Missouri's history. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Rupp was a key factor in ensuring that the state budget was one that taxpayers could afford — without a tax increase. Missouri's Constitution requires a balanced budget, and through a series of intense evaluations of every dollar spent in the state — including an unprecedented effort to gather citizen suggestions on scaling back government — the Senate agreed on a budget that was \$456 million less than the governor's proposal but still met Missouri priorities like education, the elimination of new spending proposals, and the consolidation of costs wherever possible.

Highlights:

From the outset, the number one budget priority was to protect education. To that end, the Senate maintained funding for the foundation formula, so that the essential operations of schools could continue.

In District 2, that amount of funding equals:

\$165,541,520

In addition, higher education funding was kept at a level that ensures no tuition increases for in-state, undergraduate students.

As the Senate worked to find savings across the board in state government, resulting in millions of dollars in savings, Sen. Rupp held the line to ensure there was also no new spending.



Distribution of Each Tax Dollar

FY 2011 AFTER VETO OPERATING BUDGET
All Funds: \$23.275 Billion



The Missouri Senate used a unique initiative to gather citizen input on cost savings through the “Rebooting Government” program. Through a link on the Senate website – www.senate.mo.gov/RebootMO – citizens were able to submit their ideas to realize cost savings. A special work session was held to evaluate the thousands of ideas submitted, and Sen. Rupp led the Social Programs evaluation. Some of those ideas that made it to the governor’s desk include:

SB 1007: Medicaid cost containment and consolidation – **\$24 million in savings.**

SB 798: Elimination of printing the state statutes and the Blue Book. These are now available online – **\$1.7 million in savings.**

Ensuring Timely Tax Returns

After citizens were delayed in receiving their state tax returns last year, the Legislature sent the governor **HB 1408**, which places a deadline of 90 days to return overpayment of tax refunds back to the taxpayer. Current law is 120 days. Once signed by the governor, if the state is late with your refund, you will also receive an interest payment.

Senator Scott T. Rupp

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Governmental Accountability

In light of surging federal government spending, Sen. Rupp wanted oversight of federal stimulus funds so fraud, waste, and abuse were stopped before they happened. His legislation, **SB 757**, was eventually adopted into **HB 1965** and passed by the General Assembly. The bill ultimately protects the taxpayer and provides governmental accountability.

House Bill 1965 establishes a joint committee made up of House and Senate members to oversee the various grants and contracts awarded by federal stimulus funds. It also requires the governor to submit a daily report of all amounts held from the state operating budget to the Missouri Accountability Portal, as well as out-of-state travel expenses for state employees or elected officials.



Individual Freedoms: Health Care Freedom Act

Senator Rupp was a co-sponsor of the Health Care Freedom Act. This referendum, which was passed in **HB 1764**, will allow Missouri voters the opportunity to decide, during the August election, if they want federal law to require them to purchase health insurance.

If approved by voters, no federal law could force a patient, employer, or health care provider to participate in any government or privately run health care system designed by the state or federal government.

It would also protect the right of Missourians to choose their own health care products and services without fear of facing fines or imprisonment.

The Health Care Freedom Act would not reject any federal health care option, nor take away an individual's choice to participate in the federal health care plan.

Contact Senator Rupp's Office:

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