



Missouri Immigration Reform Bill Receives National Attention

Senator Scott Rupp Interviewed by CNN's Lou Dobbs

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, appeared on CNN's *Lou Dobbs Tonight* yesterday to discuss a Missouri bill dealing with immigration reform that he is backing. The legislation targets employers who attract and hire illegal aliens, ends public assistance for illegal immigrants, and also strengthens the role of local law enforcement in identifying, detaining and deporting illegal residents of Missouri. The bill drew national attention from Lou Dobbs, host of the show. Dobbs interviewed Rupp via satellite and the interview aired last night.

The measure, Senate Bill 1250, has passed the Missouri Senate and was heard by the House's Special Committee on Immigration Reform this week.

"When an illegal immigrant is working here, they are stealing a job from a hard working Missourian," Rupp said.

The bill states that any contractor or developer would lose their contract on state subsidized projects if they knowingly hired illegal aliens. If a contractor knowingly employed an undocumented worker on a public project, they would be barred from working on public projects for three years.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service estimated 22,000 illegal aliens lived in Missouri as of 2000. Experts report in the past 15 years that the estimated population of illegal immigrants in Missouri has gone up from 10,000 to more than 55,000. Rupp said it is alarming how many illegal immigrants are coming to Missouri.

"If we don't stop rewarding them with chances at a free education and free healthcare, that number will only continue to grow," Rupp said. "These illegal aliens are stealing precious tax dollars that help Missouri's working families and single moms send their children to school and college."

The bill must be approved by the House committee before moving to the floor for debate by the full House.

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