



Senator Rupp Introduces Measure Blocking Potential Investments in Terrorism

JEFFERSON CITY — Since global terrorism became a household concern with the tragic attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Americans have been challenged to combat the threat however possible, and Missouri citizens have shown their mettle. Whether working to further develop alternative fuels to reduce our dependence on foreign oil or giving support to the men and women overseas risking incomparable sacrifice, Missourians are doing their part. To continue efforts undermining the threat of terrorism, this week I introduced a resolution to ensure our state is not complicit in providing funds to rogue states.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 17 calls on all public retirement systems in Missouri to make certain no funds are invested in entities that do business with nations that sponsor terrorists according to the U.S. State Department.

Currently, publicly traded American companies are not allowed to do business in or with terrorist-sponsoring states. However, Missouri's public pension systems invest on behalf of the citizens of Missouri in foreign companies that have no restrictions. The danger of investment dollars eventually landing in the hands of terrorists is too significant to ignore, and we need to do everything we can to make sure they don't.

These sorts of investments put the pensions of dedicated public employees at risk, have the potential to put American and allied military personnel in danger, and increase the likelihood of additional terrorist attacks. To do so with the investments of public workers would be unconscionable.

The Missouri State Treasurer has already taken action to eliminate questionable investments of tax dollars, and the state Senate needs to follow up to protect public pensions. This week I testified to the Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee on behalf of this needed resolution, and I know my colleagues will work with me to see it approved. We must do everything we can to protect ourselves from this genuine threat.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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