



Sen. Rupp Highlights Immigration Reform Plan on Fox News

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, appeared today on nationally-seen Fox News to talk about his support of a new initiative by the governor to crack down on illegal immigration in Missouri.

“We’ve all seen the story of how this country’s flawed immigration policies led to the death of three college students in New Jersey with their accused killer, an illegal immigrant, previously arrested for child rape and out on bail,” said Sen. Rupp. “We need to enforce the laws of this country, and Missouri is not going to wait around for Washington, D.C., to do just that.”

The proposal calls for law enforcement units in the Missouri Department of Public Safety (the Water Patrol, Highway Patrol, and Capitol Police) to prepare for special training and deputization that allows state law enforcement officials to enforce federal immigration law as authorized through sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act. In addition, DPS will encourage and assist local law enforcement to apply for the same status and to offer state assistance, resources and support, including making available Live Scan for local law enforcement agencies that will use it. The state has invested more than \$2 million of homeland security money in Live Scan, which allows fingerprints to be scanned in the field. Anyone stopped and identified as illegal will be held to prevent them from committing further crimes. The state will also verify the immigration status of every individual to be sent to jail or prison with an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) computer background status check and complete full background checks on any accompanying adults.

Missouri has already taken the first steps in this initiative, shutting down a state contractor who hired dozens of illegal workers who worked under false documents. In addition, state agencies are enacting a no-tolerance policy through tough new contract protections. New audits will weed out any contractors who have employed illegal immigrants. In addition, it has been recently discovered that illegal immigrants have twice been used as cheap labor on state-subsidized, low-income housing projects in the St. Louis area. The new program strengthens the rules that govern these subsidized projects, calling on all developers, contractors, and sub-contractors working on a project that is funded directly or indirectly with state dollars to submit to the state within 30 days all I-9 forms, along with two additional forms of identification they were supposed to obtain for their files when hiring any new worker. State-funded projects will be randomly audited to ensure that the contractors and subcontractors that organizations are hiring are not using an illegal workforce.

“I’m glad we have decided to take a pro-active stance on the immigration crisis this state and this nation faces, instead of just waiting for the federal government to do something” said Sen. Rupp. “The bottom line is: if you’re not supposed to work in the U.S., then you had better not be working for the state.”

#