



MEDIA ADVISORY: Senator Rupp to “Get Real” with Dr. Phil

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, will appear on the Dr. Phil television show on Tuesday, Jan. 8th, 2008 on St. Louis television station KMOV, channel 4, at 3 p.m. He was invited on the nationally-syndicated show to talk about the recent tragic suicide of a teenager in his district and his new bill to stop cyberbullying. The senator appeared on the program with the mother of Megan Meier, the Dardenne Prairie 13-year-old who killed herself about a year ago after an Internet relationship with a teenage boy soured. Later, it was discovered that one of the parents of another of Megan’s friends could have been involved in a plot to exact revenge for a falling out between Megan and that friend. Prosecutors in the case said there was no law to cover the alleged bullying over the Internet that went on against Megan.

“This tragedy underscores that words do have meaning and can hurt,” said Sen. Rupp. “I hope my appearance with Tina Meier on the Dr. Phil Show and my introduction of [Senate Bill 818](#) will draw attention to this problem and close the loopholes cyberbullies now exploit.”

Sen. Rupp is on the governor’s Internet Harassment Task Force, a group charged with carefully reviewing state law and making recommendations for changes to better protect Missourians from Internet harassment. The group plans to announce its recommendations on Tuesday, January 8th, 2008.

“Thirteen-year-old Megan Meier was a bright, beautiful young girl who had her whole life ahead of her,” said Sen. Rupp. “It is unbearable to think that an online chat would turn vicious, and most likely deadly, and contribute to end that young life. I believe my colleagues in the legislature will recognize the need to make a change in our harassment laws so another Megan Meier incident never has to happen.”

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