



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

The Rupp Report

*Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County***Column For Week of: December 7, 2009**[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

Pre-Filed Bills & New Committee Assignments

With the start of the 2010 Legislative Session set to begin on Jan. 6, state lawmakers began pre-filing, or pre-introducing, bills on Dec. 1 — the first official filing day. Among the bills I pre-filed for the coming year is one of my top priorities for next year: [Senate Bill 618](#) — my proposed legislation that would require health carriers to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Autism insurance reform has been a major focus of mine even before I successfully advanced legislation in 2008 to enhance autism healthcare services in Missouri. Earlier this year, I filed similar autism insurance reform legislation, which passed in the Senate, but not in the House. Ever since I first filed the proposed reform, I have received an overwhelming amount of support from many state lawmakers, and from hundreds of Missouri families around the state, many of whom attended several autism insurance reform rallies I sponsored this fall. Building on this momentum, I believe the chances of passing meaningful autism insurance reform in 2010 in Missouri are very good.

Senate Bill 618 would prohibit insurers from denying or cancelling insurance coverage based solely on an individual's diagnosis of autism and would require insurance companies to cover up to \$72,000 a year in treatment for autistic children and adults up to age 21.

I filed several other bills during this first round of bill filing, several of which were previously filed last year. They include:

[Senate Bill 620](#) — would create an additional judge position for the 45th Circuit, which includes Lincoln and Pike counties. Currently, those areas are being served by just one presiding judge — pushing the judicial system to the max.

[Senate Bill 663](#) — would add cell phone numbers and fax machines to the state's no-call list and would regulate political "robo-calls."

[Senate Bill 664](#) — would provide a disposition hearing within 30 days for animals seized following dog fighting incidents and would increase the second offense penalty for being a spectator at a dog fighting event.

In addition, I also filed [Senate Bill 619](#), which would repeal the extension of St. Louis City's commercial zone through St. Charles County.

In the weeks to come, I will also file additional bills, and will highlight as many these as possible in future columns and press releases.

I also want to highlight my two new committee assignments. I am pleased to serve as vice-chairman of the [Senate Education Committee](#) and as chairman of the [Senate Select Committee on Redistricting](#). As a longtime member of the Senate Education Committee, I am looking forward to serving in this new leadership post as I work with committee members to continue our sustained efforts of keeping education a top priority for our state. I also look forward to leading the redistricting committee, which is charged with performing all duties necessary for the General Assembly to prepare for its role in the 2010 Census.

As the 2010 legislative session unfolds, I will continue to keep you, my constituents, apprised of all major developments, and I look forward to continuing to serve your needs and priorities in Jefferson City. As always, if you have any 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.

###

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol
Room 426
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/rupp>

Phone Number:
866.271.2844

Fax:
573.526.4766