



MISSOURI SENATE

Jeff Smith
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JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Jeff Smith to Join Lawmakers in May 16-19 Trek From Capitol to St. Louis to Raise Awareness of Health Care Crisis

Trio to Hold Press Conference upon Arrival in St. Louis

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, and State Representatives Don Calloway, D-St. Louis, and Chris Carter, D-St. Louis, along with Danny O'Neil, governmental relations manager for Missouri Primary Care Association, have teamed up to walk home from the Jefferson City, Missouri Capitol building to the Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers (PHC) at 5701 Delmar Blvd. in St. Louis beginning May 16 and ending on May 19.

The purpose of the 130-mile journey — *The Walk Home for Health Care* — is to increase awareness of the health care crisis facing the state of Missouri and to bring attention to the critical issue of Missouri's uninsured and underinsured.

A rally and press conference will be held on Tuesday, May 19, at approximately noon to welcome the senator and representatives to the health center, where they will briefly discuss their cause and present a check to the Missouri Healthcare Access Fund (MHAF) — a fund created under 2007 legislation to support Missouri health clinics that provide free care to patients in underserved areas.

Many local and regional elected officials are expected to attend and participate in the arrival ceremony. Those interested in following lawmakers Smith, Calloway, and Carter on their journey may do so on their Twitter account — WalkHome4Care. Interested parties are also to welcome to join them at any point in their journey. There have been many supporters that have expressed interest in joining along the trail but are concerned that they can not make the trip via foot. To address this and to allow for as much participation as possible, the group will make the second leg of the journey on bike. The itinerary is as follows:

- May 16, 2009: Walk from Jefferson City to Rhineland
- May 17, 2009: Bike from Rhineland to Augusta
- May 18, 2009: Walk from Augusta to St. Louis County
- May 19, 2009: Walk from St. Louis County to St. Louis City

For more information, please contact Betty Randall at (314) 367-7848, ext. 1221.

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