



More information  
from the Capitol



## Families Turn Out in Support of Autism Coverage

The interim continues to be exciting and busy as I spend time in the district, meet with constituents, and work on priorities for the coming legislative session, which begins in January. I wanted to let you know about some of the work I have been doing over the past several months.

Last session, I worked with Senator Scott Rupp to try to pass the Autism Insurance Bill, which would have required health carriers to provide coverage for the treatment and diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder for patients under 18. Of the top 10 most common neurological disorders, autism is the only one not covered by insurance. We passed the bill out of the Senate, but it did not make it to the House floor before session ended.

During the interim, we are working to gain support for next year's bill through a series of rallies throughout the state. I am pleased to say that our first rally, held in St. Louis on September 20 was a success. An estimated 2,000 people attended, including many families with children on the autism spectrum. I firmly believe this bill will greatly improve the quality of life for

### Pictures from the St. Louis Rally



*Sen. Schmitt speaking to the crowd.*



*Sen. Schmitt talking about the importance of autism therapies.*



*Children and families turned out for the family-friendly event. Here, Sen. Schmitt is with one of the young attendees.*

children on the autism spectrum, and this is why Sen. Rupp and I continue to fight for the bill's passage.

Our upcoming rallies include:

#### **ST. JOSEPH**

Friday, Oct. 2nd, 6:00 p.m.

East Hills Shopping Center (Intersection of Frederick Ave & Belt Hwy - Inside Mall)

6 p.m. - Kids Parade & Rally with Sen. Scott T. Rupp & Sen. Eric Schmitt

#### **KANSAS CITY**

Saturday, Oct. 3rd, 10:30 a.m.

UMKC School of Nursing (2464 Charlotte)

Live Music, Resource Tables and Rally with Sen. Eric Schmitt

#### **SPRINGFIELD**

Saturday, Oct. 3rd, 3:30 p.m.

Burrell Autism Center (1300 Bradford Pkwy)


3:30 p.m. – Family Fun

4:15 p.m. – Kids' Parade

4:45 p.m. – Rally with Sen. Scott T. Rupp & Sen. Eric Schmitt

You can view information on the efforts to push for autism coverage at <http://www.moautismbill.com/>.

Another effort that is taking place during the interim is the work of the Senate's 2020 committees. These committees were created to develop strategic plans for our state in key policy areas. I serve on the Job Creation 2020 Committee, and I also serve as the chairman of the Healthy Missourians 2020 Committee. In health status, Missouri ranks 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Our goal is to change that sobering reality. The Job Creation 2020 Committee is meeting in Kansas City on Sept. 30. The Healthy Missourians Committee will meet the next day in Kansas City and touch on a variety of topics dealing with effective and efficient delivery of care, i.e. quality and coordination of care, transparency and reducing fraud, and health information



technology.

I will continue to keep you posted in the following months on these and other issues as we move closer to the 2010 legislative session.

My office in Jefferson City is here to help you throughout the fall, and you can call toll-free at 866-288-2344.

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