Senator Scott T. Rupp's Bill that Bans Elective Abortions in Any Health Missouri Insurance Exchange Passes Senate Committee

JEFFERSON CITY — In an effort to protect the right to life in Missouri, Sen. Scott T. Rupp's (R-Wentzville) Senate Bill 747, which would expand Missouri's health insurance coverage ban on elective abortions by prohibiting any plans and policies offered through any health insurance exchange in Missouri from covering abortion, was passed out of the Small Business, Insurance and Industry Senate Committee today.

"We originally filed this bill with the hope that the federal government wouldn't force health care on its citizens, but now that federal health care is a real threat, we need to make sure the citizens of Missouri will not subsidize abortions in policies offered through the health insurance exchanges," said Sen. Rupp. "Missouri has denied insurance coverage for abortions since 1983, and we want to reinforce that. There are many provisions within the federal legislation that threaten life and that will force taxpayers to participate in financing abortions. The president's executive order does not protect life as it doesn't trump existing federal law."

Under current Missouri law, health insurance policies are barred from providing coverage for elective abortions except through separate optional riders (additional provisions to the insurance policy) that require an additional premium. Senator Rupp's legislation would eliminate concerns of public funds being used to purchase coverage for abortions through any plan or policy sold within any exchange in Missouri.

"This bill just reinforces Missouri's long standing tradition of not allowing taxpayer dollars to fund abortions," said Sen. Rupp. "I'm glad that the senate committee approved it being sent to the Senate floor for full debate, because there isn't much time to lose."

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