For Immediate Release: April 15, 2010 Contact: (573) 751-1282

Senator Scott T. Rupp's Pro-Life Measures Move Forward

JEFFERSON CITY —Sen. Scott T. Rupp's (R-Wentzville) pro-life measures moved forward in the Senate today.

Senator Rupp's <u>Senate Bill 747</u>, which would expand Missouri's health insurance coverage ban on elective abortions, would prohibit any plans and policies offered through any health insurance exchange in Missouri from covering an abortion. Missouri was one of the very first states to react to federal health care mandates that could make abortions easier to obtain.

"This legislation protects Missouri's long standing desire to not use taxpayer dollars to fund abortions, and it's especially important now that the federal health care mandate attempts to do just that," said Sen. Rupp.

The Senate added language from SB 747 to Senate Bill 793, which Sen. Rupp cosponsored. If enacted, SB 793 requires a woman seeking an abortion to review printed material detailing the risks of the procedure to the mother and child, including photos that detail the child's life at two-week intervals. It also would give the mother the opportunity to hear the unborn child's heartbeat and view an ultrasound, all within 24 hours of the procedure.

In addition to written informed consent, the legislation would require the physician to explain alternative options and access to numerous counseling options. SB 793 received first round approval.

"This legislation would make sure that the mother sees that there is a life inside of her, with a heartbeat, and that there are other options available than ending that life," said Sen. Rupp. "It's my hope that the little heartbeat the mother hears tells her to choose life."

"I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate for swiftly and decidedly voting to save lives today," said Sen. Rupp.

