For Immediate Release: May 5, 2010 Contact: (573) 751-1282

Senator Scott T. Rupp's Legislation Protects Missouri Insurance Customers Insurance reform measure contains "Health Care Freedom Act"

JEFFERSON CITY —As hundreds of Missourians rallied for health care freedom at the Missouri Capitol, the Missouri Senate passed legislation that will allow Missourians to vote on whether the federal government should fine them for making certain health care choices.

Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder commended the work of Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, for working to break a filibuster that lead to the passage of House Bill 1764.

"I applaud the efforts of the Missouri General Assembly to ensure that Missourians have the opportunity to vote on a health care bill that I believe is blatantly unconstitutional," said Kinder. "Washington ignored the will of the people when they passed their intrusive and overbearing health care bill, but now, Missourians will be able to make their voices heard."

Upon voter approval, HB 1764, as amended, would provide that no federal law will compel a patient, employer, or health care provider to participate in any government or privately run health care system, nor prohibit a patient or employer from paying directly for legal health care services.

Sen. Rupp sponsored the bill that includes the health care provision.

"I took an oath to protect and defend the constitution and to protect the rights and freedoms of all Missourians," said Sen. Rupp. "I am proud to be the Senate handler of this very important legislation that fulfills that oath."

When passed by the House, voters will have a final say in federal control of health care.

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