



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

The Rupp Report

Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County

Column For Week of: April 26, 2010

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Missouri is Tough on Immigration, Too

I watched with interest as Arizona passed “one of the toughest” illegal immigration laws in our country’s recent history. I’m assuming when they say “one of the toughest,” they are including Missouri’s illegal immigration laws, which I sponsored in the Senate and which were enacted back in 2008.

The Missouri law gives our state highway patrol the directive to check the residency status of anyone presented for incarceration. Officers received special training so they can continue to enforce illegal immigration laws, including courses to learn about the administration of deportation. At the same time, the law also calls for employers to use a computer program that checks the legal status of anyone seeking employment in our state, and it establishes penalties for employers who hire illegal aliens. If a company receives a tax credit, a check of the immigration status of the workers is required.

The Missouri law also prohibits municipalities from establishing sanctuary policies. It prohibits the issuance of driver’s licenses to illegal aliens, as well as penalties for driver’s license fraud. Illegal immigrants are prohibited from receiving state grants or scholarships and other taxpayer benefits. All of these measures were wildly successful from the beginning and continue to be successful today. According to Cpt. Tim Hull of the Missouri Highway Patrol, as of April 24, 2010, the state started the deportation process 540 times.

I think the Arizona law sprang from the same frustrations felt by many Missourians. The federal government has ignored their responsibility to enforce our federal immigration laws. States like Missouri and Arizona have been more than patient in waiting for immigration reform and enforcement, and now our state and Arizona are doing what we can to stem the flow of crime that surrounds illegal immigration.

While we’ve had great success with these policies, these deportations are only a drop in the bucket compared to the magnitude of illegal immigrants thought to be in our state and country. My kudos to Arizona for taking the same strong stance Missouri has on illegal immigration, because it has renewed the demand for immigration reform throughout our country.

Until our federal government protects our borders and finds a solution to this growing problem, we will continue to protect our state’s citizens and their interests.

If you want to comment on immigration reform in Missouri or any other matter relating to state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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