



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

The Rupp Report

Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County

Column For Week of: May 3, 2010

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My Goals for the End of Session

These last two weeks of session will be interesting, as it will determine the fate of several of the bills I have introduced this year. The state's financial situation and the tremendous adjustments we had to make to balance the budget became our priority throughout the last few weeks, but we were able to complete that process a full week before the constitutional deadline. The chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Robert Mayer, from the 25th District, personally thanked me on the Senate floor for my work to move Missouri toward fiscal responsibility during these lean times.

The end of session is typically a flurry of activity. While lawmakers consider many measures during the last two weeks, here are some of the bills I will be focusing on.

Autism insurance reform – After the Senate passed [SB 618](#), the Autism insurance reform legislation is making its way through the House. The House added a committee substitute to SB 618, which means it needs to have the Senate's final approval after it is voted out of the House. The main difference between chambers pertains to the amount of coverage that would be required for autism. I am very hopeful that this important legislation can become Missouri law and provide assistance to those who suffer from this devastating neurological disorder.

Abortion – My legislation that protected Missouri taxpayers from supporting abortions in any health care exchanges, like the ones proposed in federal health care legislation, was enveloped into [SB 793](#), which was passed by the full Senate. Senate Bill 793 is important because it places new requirements on the mother before she can undergo the procedure, including counseling and a chance to see an ultrasound or the baby's heartbeat. My House counterparts can really strengthen Missouri's right to life stance by approving this legislation.

Government Accountability – This year's budgeting process established that we need more accountability as we continue to weather this difficult economy. One of the best ways to do this is my bill to create the Joint Committee on Recovery Accountability and Transparency, [SB 757](#). A team of House and Senate members would oversee the amounts withheld from the state budget, out-of-state travel would be posted on the Missouri accountability website, and county auditors would be required to inventory certain property under this measure. This bill has passed the House budget committee and will hopefully move to the floor soon.

Rewarding education excellence – Work continues on [SB 907](#), which would create the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program for public high school students who graduate early. This gives the student a major portion of the state funding the student would receive, as well as a portion to the district, so that they can begin their higher education, rather than languishing in high school. This was passed out of the Senate education committee and I'd like to bring it before the rest of my colleagues soon.

Please visit my website for a full view of the legislation I have worked on this year. If you have any questions or comments about your state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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