



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

# The Rupp Report

*Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County***Column For Week of: May 17, 2010**[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

## Session Ends on Successful Note

A flurry of activity was ended with the loud bang of the gavel, as the Senate session came to a close at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 14. For those of you keeping score at home, there were 491 Senate bills, 1,265 House Bills, and 83 Joint Resolutions filed this session, yet only a handful of these measures made it out of the Legislature, where they now sit on the governor's desk and await his signature.

A portion of the legislation that made it to the executive branch were my efforts, while others contained language that I had worked on this session. My biggest priority was to protect taxpayers by balancing the budget without a tax increase. Reducing government spending was also accomplished and will continue to be priorities next session. We tackled the worst budget crisis in our state's history head-on by advancing several "Rebooting Government" ideas to make government smaller and more efficient (click [here](#) to learn more about "Rebooting Government" initiatives.) You may always see my work at my website, but here's a quick recap of my other priorities:

**Autism Spectrum Disorder Insurance Reform** – This year we finally were able to get this much-needed insurance reform out of the Legislature and ready for the many families whose lives will be impacted by this historic measure. Under [House Bill 1311](#), insurance companies would no longer be able to deny or cancel coverage just because a child has autism. The proposed insurance coverage would include a physician or psychiatrist's referral of Applied Behavior Analysis therapy — up to \$40,000 per year for individuals — with a cost-of-living adjustment included. This measure makes Missouri the 20th state to cover the diagnosis and treatment of those on the autism spectrum.

**Abortion** – Language that I wrote that banned any health exchanges in Missouri — including the ones proposed in the federal health care legislation — from offering insurance coverage for abortion, was passed in a bill that also increased the requirements for abortion. These expanded requirements found in [Senate Bill 793](#) include a chance for the mother to hear the child's heartbeat, see an ultrasound, and view printed materials that detail the child's development. It also includes mandatory referral to counseling and the Alternatives to Abortion program, and an explanation of the father's responsibility for child support. Missouri continues to be a leader in protecting life, and I am blessed to be a part of this huge victory for life.

**Health Care Freedom Act** – This legislation, [House Bill 1764](#), takes the issue to the voters and allows Missouri to be one of the first to sound off on the federal health care plan. If passed in August, no Missourian would be forced to participate in any government or privately run health care system, and it would ensure Missourians remain in charge of their own healthcare decisions without facing fines or penalties from the federal government.

All in all, I'd have to say that it was a very successful session, as my legislation continued to put Missouri at the forefront of the nation in conservative values. Thank you for your support this session, and I hope to see you in the community. If you have any questions or concerns, you may always reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

### Contact Information

**Capitol Office**

State Capitol  
Room 426  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Website:**

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/rupp>

**Phone Number:**

866.271.2844

**Fax:**

573.526.4766