



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

The Rupp Report

*Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County***Column For Week of: August 9, 2010**

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Missouri Voters Overwhelmingly Approve Health Care Freedom

Citizens Draw Line Between Federal and State Decisions

Nearly 940,000 Missourians throughout the state made their way to the polls on August 3 to make their voices heard. Perhaps one of the most important measures to hit the ballot was the decision for health care freedom.

[Proposition C](#), which passed by an overwhelming 71 percent by Missouri voters, amends Missouri Statutes to deny the federal government the authority to penalize our state's citizens for refusing to purchase private health insurance and infringe upon the most basic rights we hold as Missourians, including the right to decide how we will take care of ourselves and our health care needs. In the 2nd District, Lincoln and St. Charles county voters followed the statewide trend by supporting the proposition with 76 percent of the vote.

It all started with the passage of the federal health care bill earlier this year, in which the "Affordable Care Act" was signed on March 23. Proponents of the act said it would put into place comprehensive health insurance reforms that would hold insurance companies more accountable, lower health care costs, guarantee more health care choices, and enhance the quality of health care for all Americans. In fact, since this measure was signed into law, citizens in states across our nation have been trying to let those in Washington, D.C. know that they don't want a federal law to force them to buy health insurance.

That's why I signed on, with 19 of my Senate colleagues, to co-sponsor a measure that would prohibit laws interfering with an individual's freedom of choice in health care. The "Health Care Freedom Act" was included in [House Bill 1764](#) and was approved by the General Assembly, placing the issue before voters in the August election.

Voters made sure to stand up for their rights, reinforcing their belief that Missourians should be able to choose their own health care products and services without living in fear of being fined or imprisoned for not participating in any government or privately run health care system. This does not, however, reject any federal health care option nor take away an individual's choice to participate in the federal health care plan. Missourians drew a significant line regarding the role the federal government plays in determining very personal decisions — our health care. I am proud to have worked to get this issue before the citizens of this state and will continue to serve the rights of those who elected me to serve as their voice in Jefferson City.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other topic regarding state government, please visit my website, [e-mail me](#), or call my office at (866) 271-2844.

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