

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Missouri House

FROM: Pam Fichter, President
Gerard Nieters, Legislative Director

DATE: April 19, 2012

RE: Support of HCS HB 1274 & HCS HB 1890

Missouri Right to Life supports the passage of both HCS HB 1274 & HCS HB 1890. These two bills ensure protections in different ways for women who are given RU 486.

HCS HB 1274 ensures that a woman receives complete information about the dangers of RU486 and similar abortifacient drugs. It ensures that a woman receives a complete physical 24 hours prior to being given RU 486 or similar abortifacient drugs in order to make sure that a woman does not have extenuating circumstances that would counteract with RU 486 and create a life-threatening situation for her. HCS HB 1274 would also ban so-called tele-med/video conferencing abortions that do not give these safeguards for a woman's health.

HCS HB 1890 follows that same line of protection from those who would take advantage of a woman in a vulnerable situation by ensuring that there is accountability for a physician to give quality care to that woman. HCS HB 1890 simply requires that any physician administering RU 486 for the purpose of an abortion must carry the same malpractice insurance as others in the medical industry providing surgical abortions.

There are underlying questions one must ask when considering these bills. Here are just a few:

Why would you not want women to be fully informed about what RU 486 does to her body and the unborn child she is carrying?

Should the woman just be given a 20-25 page booklet to read or should she have the opportunity to ask questions of the physician about what is going to happen to her body which is unique and different from anyone else's, and based on a medical exam, may react differently to the drug?

Why would we not want a physician to have insurance that is consistent with the rest of the medical industry?

Missouri Right to Life supports both HCS HB 1274 and HCS HB 1890.

Both bills address the serious life-threatening issues involved with RU 486 and abortifacient drugs in very different ways. These bills will save lives and we urge your support.