

**TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
REGARDING SB 749 FOR THE
PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES
May 1, 2012**

MRL is here to testify today in support of SB 749. MRL recognizes that the intent of SB 749 is very narrow and limited in its protection of conscience rights in direct response to the Obama Administration's Health and Human Service's mandated coverage in employer provided insurance plans of abortion-inducing drugs. We believe it is important to send a message to Washington by passing this legislation.

SB 749 sets forth Missouri's intent to protect religious freedom and conscience rights in any lawsuit which is sure to come as a result of the current administration's mandate of insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs. SB 749 will seek to provide conscience rights protections related to insurance coverage of objectionable practices until such time as the federal government institutes a contrary mandate and to the extent there is any part of the bill that is not addressed by the mandate.

The Obama administration's incremental assault on the right to life becomes more and more apparent each day. The fact that people of faith have been the primary defenders of life, is no coincidence that the administration's attacks on life and on religion are necessarily linked. And thus it is no surprise that the defense of life and the defense of religious freedom call for a common defense.

Missouri Right to Life will continue to fight these assaults with all of its might and without end until all innocent human life is respected and protected. MRL supports SB 749 as another step in that fight.