

January 7, 2015

Missouri State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Legislator:

As the new president of Missouri Right to Life I welcome you back to Jefferson City and to the Missouri General Assembly! I have been honored to serve the pro-life citizens of our state as vice president of Missouri Right to Life for the last 7 years. The people of Missouri have spoken again in the 2014 elections and they continue to support and have high expectations of the historic number of pro-life legislators they sent to Jefferson City. They have given you the great privilege and opportunity to advance the cause of life in our state. And, we look forward to continuing this great work with you!

We urge you to support our primary legislation for the 2015 legislative session. While there will be many pro-life issues that will come before you, one of the most critical issues is once again one of the main priorities for Missouri Right to Life. Missouri needs more accountability and oversight of abortion clinic inspections. This life-saving legislation will ensure that abortion clinics meet the standard of care that other medical facilities must meet.

All of America was stunned at the filthy conditions and criminal actions at the Gosnell abortion mill in Pennsylvania where several women – and countless children – were killed. Similar atrocities were revealed at abortion facilities in Texas and Georgia. These are not isolated incidents.

In Missouri, ambulances are a regular sight at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. The January 2013 inspection of that facility listed fourteen violations – including rusty equipment, mishandling of drugs, and untrained medical workers. There have been at least 27 emergencies at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in the last 6 years!

Currently, Missouri does not require an annual on-site inspection of abortion facilities. Abortion is an atrocity and abusive care of a woman in any medical condition or any medical facility is an atrocity. There is a clear need for legislation to improve the inspection process. Accountability is needed for the protection of women and their unborn children. Similar legislation has passed in other states and with your help; we can pass it in Missouri as well.

Other pieces of legislation that likely will come before you that MRL is working to pass are: conscience protections for medical professionals, banning public funding of abortion services, human cloning and human embryonic stem cell research, updating of abortion statistic reporting, protections for minors, prevention of DNR orders being placed in minors medical files without parents approval, update parental consent for all custodial parents, continuation of the alternatives to abortion funding and tax credits, and pro-life protective language for any life sciences funding or economic development legislation.

We are also watching the movement of other possible legislation that could have life and death consequences, such as: expansion of Medicaid, end of life and quality of life issues with Obamacare, and the taking of health care decision making away from patient and family.

Being pro-life is not just abortion any more. With the advances in science and the passage of Obamacare, being pro-life means protecting innocent human lives on the issues of abortion, human life sciences research, human cloning and end of life decisions being challenged on various fronts.

With the 2006 passage of Amendment 2, the Missouri constitution includes a right to engage in human cloning and human embryonic stem cell research. While Missouri Right to Life supports ethical research using adult stem cells and other non-embryonic, non-lethal stem cell research, we stand opposed to life-destroying research. We also oppose taxpayer funding of other incentives of this open-ended research with no pro-life protections. Until Missouri voters have the opportunity to reconsider Amendment 2, we must work to protect life as much as possible within the confines of the law.

A 2009 decision by Judge Callahan allows the legislature to add protective language to legislation regarding life science research. As we have in the past, we will continue to request such language in any legislation, appropriation or budget to prevent taxpayer funding or other incentives for unethical research.

Key facts to know about human embryonic stem cell research and human cloning are listed below. This is a topic that can be very intimidating, and we urge you to familiarize yourself with the basic information on this issue. In a nutshell, you should know that:

Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) is the scientific term for cloning.

Human embryonic stem cells (HESC's) are obtained by destroying an embryo.

Adult stem cells (ACS's) are derived from non-lethal sources like tooth pulp, nasal tissue and body fat with no ethical problems, and are responsible for every successful human stem cell treatment

Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells have the same pluripotency of HESC's, are derived from manipulating ACS's, and not involved in destruction of a human embryo.

Scientists have been able to coax adult stem cells into greater specificity, i.e., using an adult stem cell to create a blood cell, or a bone cell, or a muscle cell.

You will find information on this in the MRL folder. We'd be happy to provide any additional information you would like and will keep you updated on relevant new developments in this area. We will work with you to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

As a pro-life legislator, your voting record is very important in future elections. The MRL PAC uses the voting records to determine if legislators who claim to be pro-life are implementing those principles with their votes. We want to work with you in every way possible to assure a pro-life voting record.

Susan Klein is the lobbyist for Missouri Right to Life. Susan has many years of experience working with the legislature on pro-life issues. She will be the first person for you to contact if you have any questions about MRL's position on any legislation.

When MRL takes a position on a piece of legislation, Susan will testify at relevant hearings, contact legislators, and have memos distributed explaining our position. We will continue distributing or memos electronically and will text message those legislators who wish to be contacted in this way. Please fill out/update and return the enclosed information sheet if you are interested.

We look forward to working with you this year and in the years to come.

Yours for Life!

Steve Rupp
President