

**TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
REGARDING HCR 35 FOR THE
PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES**

April 9, 2013

Missouri Right to Life supports HCR 35 and urges the Missouri Legislature to take up and pass HCR 35 in a timely manner. MRL recognizes that the intent of HCR 35 is to request that the Attorney General appeal the ruling of Judge Audrey Fleissig's ruling on SB 749 passed during the 2012 legislative session.

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.

SB 749 sets forth Missouri's intent to protect religious freedom and conscience rights in any lawsuit as a result of the current administration's mandate of insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs.

Missourians seek conscience rights protections related to insurance coverage of objectionable practices until such time as the federal government institutes a contrary 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.