

**TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 1915 – “SIMONS LAW”
February 16, 2016**

Missouri Right to Life supports HB 1915, “Simons Law”, and urges this committee to give it a “do pass” report to the full House. HB 1915 builds on the rights of parents to make health care decisions for their minor child(ren). You heard the story of Simon from Sheryl Crozier and her heart-wrenching experience. The Crozier Family’s story as well as other stories, have given rise to the need for Simon’s Law. Parents have the right to decide and at least know if a DNR is being placed in their minor child’s medical file.

We are a nation and a state that prides itself on compassion and caring for others and yet many in health care are discriminated against because of a disability. This is a devaluation of life. We see this mindset in Obamacare when healthcare is rationed to people of age or because of a disability or because of a medical condition and they get labeled as a “burden” to the healthcare system.

Life has intrinsic value beyond what it can produce. Production capacity is not the measure of anyone’s life value. Nor is it the right of the medical community to decide “quality of life” for a patient. Health care decisions are the right of the patient and the family. Knowledge about their healthcare is the right of the patient and the family.

Another provision of HB 1915 is the requirement for the reporting of a hospital’s medical futility policy to anyone entering a hospital. A futility policy basically says that if the medical professionals or the hospital decides that treatment is useless to pursue then they may remove life-sustaining treatment and deny non-beneficial treatment. Then a family has to quickly seek transport to another facility in order to continue the care of their loved one. All at a time when time is critical and families are in crisis because of uncertainty about the life or death of their loved one.

HB 1915 is a parental rights bill and a transparency of healthcare information bill.

The story of Simon and others are real. Simon’s story happened in Missouri, others have as well. So there is a need for the provisions of HB 1915.

For these reasons Missouri Right to Life supports HB 1915, “Simon’s Law.”