

**TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
BEFORE THE HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 31
February 26, 2013**

Missouri Right to Life supports the passage of HB 31. HB 31 protects the rights of alternatives-to-abortion agencies and its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers to freely assemble and to freely engage in religious practices and speech without governmental interference.

The Missouri General Assembly takes a firm and unwavering stand against an unconstitutional infringement on the rights of its citizens. The majority of Missouri citizens are pro-life and our voice is heard through the voice of our locally and nationally elected officials. .

With the recent attack on our Religious Liberties by the Obama Administration by creating a health care mandate which forces people of faith to go against their deeply held religious beliefs to violate their conscience or be subject to a penalty. People of faith who provide health services through the alternatives-to-abortion program are in fear of government attacks. Those agencies providing services to women in crisis should not be forced to offer or refer for abortion services against their deeply held religious beliefs or to violate their conscience or be in fear of penalties for not doing so.

These attacks on our religious liberties are clear evidence of why we need protection for our alternative-to-abortion agencies that are helping women in crisis pregnancies.