

Legislative Update – February 7, 2014

Spotlight for the Week:

House Committees are beginning to move pro-life bills out of committee and to the House Calendar.

PLEASE SEE TWO ACTION ALERTS BELOW WITH EXPLANATION FOLLOWING EACH ALERT REQUEST:

ACTION ALERT ONE:

Please call your Representative and let them know that you want MRL's pro-life protective language on HB 1310 & 1236, HB 1495 & HB 1498 and other bills where Missouri Right to Life requests pro-life protections.

Link to Legislative Phone Numbers: <http://www.house.mo.gov/member.aspx>

Missouri Right to Life "Opposed" these Economic Development bills (see explanation below) because they do not include pro-life protections to prevent our tax dollars, public monies, tax credits and state incentives from being used for or given to businesses that could do human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

The legislature needs to be clear on pro-life protections. If these businesses do not intend to do human cloning and embryonic stem cell research then there should be no problem putting pro-life protections on these bills.

Missouri Right to Life seeks the pro-life protections of statute 196.1127 in economic development bills that open the door for public funding with state monies for human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILLS OPPOSED BY MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE:

HCS HB 1310 & 1236: Representative Noel Torpey and Denny Hoskins, Sponsors – Establishes the Missouri Angel Investment Incentive Act – Opens the door for public funding of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research **January 22, MRL told by vice-chairman (acting chairman at the time), during committee testimony, that testimony was only being taken for HB 1310 and not on HB 1236 – even though both sponsors for HB 1236 and HB 1310 both presented their bills together and everyone giving testimony in support of these bills, including MOBIO, the lead group seeking public monies for human cloning and embryonic stem cell research, gave testimony for both bills. MRL turned in testimony in opposition to both HB 1310 and HB 1236. HB 1236 never had a separate presentation in the hearing. It was on the hearing list, shows that a hearing was held but there was no separate time in the hearing to give testimony on HB 1236.**

Executive Session Held Wednesday, January 29 – HB 1310 and HB 1236 Combined into House Committee Sub (HCS) and pro-life language not included on committee sub.

Rules Committee voted do pass and reported to House floor HCS HB 1310 & 1236, February, 5 – Without pro-life protective language

Still Needs Pro-Life Language – Still Not on the Bill at this Time

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1310 & 1236: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-22e.html>

HB 1495: Representative Noel Torpey, Sponsor – Requires Missouri Technology Corporations to distribute money to specified early stage business development corporations for grants to newly formed businesses that have the potential for sales or development of new technologies. This includes business incubators at Universities where we know embryonic stem cell research has been done. – Executive Session Scheduled in House Special Standing Committee on Small Business Committee, February 10

Needs Pro-Life Language – Not on the Bill at this Time

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1495: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-29b.html>

HB 1498: Representative Anne Zerr, Sponsor - Changes the laws regarding tax incentives and tax credits. Includes Establishing the Missouri Angel Investment Incentive Act – Opens the door for public funding of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Public Hearing Completed, January 28

Needs Pro-Life Language – Not on the Bill at this Time

Committee Adjourned to go to reception held by MOBIO in the home of MOBIO's President and CEO. MOBIO is the leading group pushing to get public funding for open-ended human life sciences research, which includes human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. MOBIO adamantly opposes pro-life protective language to prevent human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1498: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-28b.html>

Missouri Right to Life Priority Legislation:

ACTION ALERT TWO:

Please call your Representative and Senator and let them know that you strongly support passage of the abortion clinic inspection legislation, SB 770 and HB 1478.

Link to Representative's Phone Numbers: <http://www.house.mo.gov/member.aspx>

Link to Senator's Phone Numbers: <http://www.senate.mo.gov/14info/SenateRoster.htm>

SB 770 and HB 1478 will place in statute stricter inspection requirements and more accountability for abortion clinics. It will establish statutory requirements rather than relying solely on regulations for oversight of abortion clinics and will be less subject to the agenda of a particular agency or political party.

Atrocities at abortion clinics in Pennsylvania and Texas and multiple violations of health requirements at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood facility where there have been multiple 911 calls over the last 4 years illustrate the need for this legislation.

We thank Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor of SB 770 and Representative Kathryn Swan, Sponsor of HB 1478 and all the co-sponsors for working to move this important life-saving legislation forward and help get it to the Governor's desk. HB 1478 has over 100 co-sponsors.

Status:

SB 770 has been first read in the Senate, January 23

HB 1478 has been Referred to the House Health Care Policy Committee, January 22

Missouri's Pro-Life Action Day

One of the most important events that you can plan for is to attend **Pro-Life Lobby Day** on **Tuesday, March 11th** at the Missouri State Capitol at 10:00 a.m. in Jefferson City, MO. Rally to begin at Noon on the 1st floor rotunda. Please print this flyer and invite people to lobby day:

<http://missourilife.org/news/2014/2014lobbyday.pdf>

Budget Bills

As the budget moves through the process over the next 3 ½ months, Missouri Right to Life will be looking to continue the funding for the Alternatives to Abortion Program. This important program provides funding for pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes. These programs help women in crisis pregnancies through difficult situations and works to help them choose life for their unborn babies.

We are also looking at ways to have more accountability for our federal tax dollars that are going to Planned Parenthood through our state budget.

Missouri Right to Life will also once again be seeking pro-life protections on the Department of Economic Development Budget Bill to ensure that public monies are not used to fund or subsidize human cloning or embryonic stem cell research.

Budget bills must be truly agreed and finally passed by the end of the day on May 9, 2014 this session.

Movement on Pro-Life Legislation: NOTE: Last Day of Session is Friday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Missouri Right to Life watches each piece of legislation for changes in language that would change the status of our support or opposition at any point in the process.

In the Missouri State Senate:

SB 519: Senator David Sater, Sponsor - Amends the current waiting period for having an abortion from 24 hours to 72 hours – Hearing Completed Monday, January 27

Testimony in Support of SB 519: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-27.html>

Picture after Testimony in Support of SB 519 with 40 Days for Life

Group: http://missourilife.org/images/2014_sb519_hearing.jpg

SB 546: Senator John Lamping, Sponsor - Modifies Missouri' Health Care Freedom Act by prohibiting the state from implementing a health insurance exchange, prohibiting insurers from accepting remuneration and prescribing duties of the Attorney General for enforcement of the act – Hearing Completed Tuesday, January 28

Testimony in Support of SB 546: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-28.html>

SB 638: Senator Gary Romine, Sponsor - Raises the fiscal year cap on the Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits from \$2 million to \$2.5 million – Hearing Completed Wednesday, January 29

Testimony in Support of SB 638: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-29.html>

SB 658: Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor - Provides protections for alternatives to abortion agencies to freely engage in religious practices – Second Read and Referred to Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, January 23

SB 660: Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor - Designates the priority for the state with respect to any funding for family planning services – Public Hearing Scheduled in Senate Seniors, Families and Pensions Committee, February 11

SB 770: Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor - Modifies abortion provisions relating to medical emergencies and inspection of facilities - First Read, January 23

SJR 38: Senator Brian Nieves, Sponsor - Prohibits Missouri state government from recognizing, enforcing, or acting in furtherance of certain actions of the federal government. – Second Read and Referred to Senate General Laws Committee, January 30

In the Missouri State House:

HB 1063: Representative Jeff Grisamore, Sponsor - Changes the laws regarding children and families and creates the Show Me Healthy Babies Program – Voted Do Pass Out of House Children, Families and Persons With Disabilities Committee, February 4
Testimony in Support of HB 1063: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-14a.html>

HB 1065: Representative Jeff Grisamore, Sponsor - Establishes the Show-Me Healthy Babies Program as a separate children's health insurance program for any low-income unborn child – Voted Do Pass Out of House Children, Families and Persons With Disabilities Committee, February 4
Testimony in Support of HB 1065: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-14b.html>

HB 1103: Representative Chuck Gatschenberger, Sponsor - Specifies that the constitutions and laws of the United States and Missouri must protect the rights of an alternatives-to-abortion agency and its officers to freely engage in activities without interference – Public Hearing Completed, January 15
Testimony in Support of HB 1103: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-15.html>

HB 1132: Representative Kevin Engler, Sponsor - Increases the amount of tax credits for contributions to pregnancy resource centers available in each fiscal year to \$2.5 million – Voted Do Pass Out of House Ways and Means Committee, February 4
Testimony in Support of HB 1132: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-28a.html>

HB 1148: Representative Ron Hicks, Sponsor - Requires an ultrasound to be conducted and reviewed with the pregnant woman prior to the 24-hour waiting period for an abortion – Second Read and Referred to Health Care Policy Committee, January 9

HB 1192: Representative Rocky Miller, Sponsor - Requires both custodial parents or the guardian of a minor to be notified prior to the performance of an abortion on their minor child – HCS Voted Do Pass Out of House Health Care Policy Committee, February 5
Testimony in Support of HB 1192: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-22a.html>

HB 1193: Representative Jeff Roorda, Sponsor - Requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to establish cord blood collection sites across the state for transportation to the Saint Louis Cord Blood Bank – Public Hearing Completed, January 22
Testimony in Support of HB 1193: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-22b.html>

HB 1252: Representative Elijah Haahr, Sponsor - Changes the laws regarding custody and visitation rights of a father who attempted to coerce the mother of his child to obtain an abortion – Public Hearing Completed, January 5
Testimony in Support of HB 1252: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-02-05a.html>

HB 1307: Representative Kevin Elmer, Sponsor - Changes the current waiting period for having an abortion from 24 hours to 72 hours – Public Hearing Scheduled in Rules Committee, February 10
Testimony in Support of HB 1307: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-22c.html>

HB 1313: Representative Keith Frederick, Sponsor - Amends the current waiting period for having an abortion from 24 hours to 72 hours – Public Hearing Scheduled in Rules Committee, February 10
Testimony in Support of HB 1313: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-22c.html>

HB 1314: Representative Keith Frederick, Sponsor - Modifies Missouri's Health Care Freedom Act by prohibiting the state from implementing a health insurance exchange, prohibiting insurers from accepting remuneration and prescribing duties of the Attorney General – Referred to Health Care Policy Committee, January 16

HB 1352: Representative Chuck Gatschenberger, Sponsor - Changes the laws regarding the protection of women's health care – Referred to Health Care Policy Committee, January 28

HB 1353: Representative Chuck Gatschenberger, Sponsor - Designates the priority for the state with respect to any funding for family planning services – Referred to Budget, January 28

HB 1375: Representative Stanley Cox, Sponsor - Requires any organization, institution, or facility which performs abortions to make an annual accounting of all funds received pursuant to Title X of the federal Public Health Service Act – Referred to Health Care Policy Committee, January 22

HB 1379: Representative Chuck Gatschenberger, Sponsor - Requires an ultrasound to be conducted and reviewed with the pregnant woman prior to the 24-hour waiting period for an abortion – Referred to Health Care Policy

Committee, January 28

HB 1430: Representative Tim Jones, Sponsor - Specifies that anyone providing medical services cannot be required to perform or participate in activities that violate his or her conscience or principles – Public Hearing Scheduled for Rules Committee, February 10

Testimony in Support of HB 1430: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-01-29a.html>

HB 1478: Representative Kathryn Swan, Sponsor - Changes the laws regarding the protection of women's health care – Referred to Health Care Policy Committee, January 22

HB 1531: Representative Bryan Spencer, Sponsor - Prohibits abortions performed for the purpose of providing fetal organs or tissue for medical transplantation – Referred to Health Care Policy Committee, January 29

HB 1585: Representative Andrew Koenig, Sponsor - Establishes the Abortion Ban for Sex Selection and Genetic Abnormalities Act of 2014 to prohibit an abortion solely due to the sex of the unborn child or a genetic abnormality diagnosis – Referred to House Health Care Policy Committee, February 5

HB 1613: Representative Chuck Gatschenberger, Sponsor - Establishes the "Ultrasound Informed Consent Act" – Referred to House Children, Families and Persons With Disabilities Comm., February 5

HJR 62: Representative Kurt Bahr, Sponsor - Proposes a constitutional amendment specifying that each citizen has an inherent liberty that includes being able to make decisions regarding lawful health care related services or products – Referred to House Health Care Policy Committee, February 5

Senate Bills OPPOSED by Missouri Right to Life:

SCR 30: Senator Jolie Justus, Sponsor - Relating to the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. A State ERA has been used for the basis to publicly fund abortion. – Second Read and Referred to Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics, January 30

House Bills OPPOSED by Missouri Right to Life:

HB 1146: Representative Bill White, Sponsor – Establishes the Adult Health Care Consent Act that specifies a priority of persons who can make health care decisions for a person who has been certified as unable to consent to his or her own care. This bill needs pro-life amendments to ensure that the family is still the decision maker in health care decisions, that food and hydration are not removed because of the question of quality of life, ensuring that court appointment does not overrule the wish of the patient and that patient care goes on while court battles are in process. Public Hearing Completed, February 5

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1146: <http://missourilife.org/legislation/2014/2014-02-05.html>

HB 1529: Changes the laws regarding sex education in schools and establishes the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act, the Birth Control Protection Act, and a women's health services program This bill removes pro-life protections in statute. Public Hearing Scheduled in House Children, Families and Persons With Disabilities Committee, February 11

We continue to review all Senate and House Bills that have been filed as they move through the process. We will report either support or opposition or a change of our position as the bills move through the process. We are looking at every aspect of each bill to determine the impact on pro-life issues that put innocent human lives at risk or have the opportunity to give protection.