

Legislative Update – January 10, 2014

Spotlight for the Week

The Second Regular Session of the 97th Missouri General Assembly began at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 8, 2014.

At this time there have been 271 bills, 8 concurrent resolutions and 15 joint resolutions filed in the House. And, there have been 212 bills, 1 concurrent resolution and 17 joint resolutions filed in the Senate.

Your Missouri Right to Life Legislative Team is reviewing all bills and will be reporting weekly in the weekly lifelines during the legislative session. We will update you on bills that have either a positive or negative impact on our ability to protect innocent human lives at every stage of life and development.

Your support is essential! And, your willingness to get involved when we put out a legislative alert with phone calls, e-mails and letters to legislators is important to the passage of good solid pro-life legislation.

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.

Priority Pro-Life Legislation

SB & HB – Numbers have not been assigned yet. Should have specific bill numbers next week.

This legislation is the Women's Health Care Protection Act.

Missouri Right to Life seeks to place in statute stricter inspection requirements and more accountability for abortion clinics. We feel that establishing statutory requirements rather than relying solely on regulations for oversight of abortion clinics would be less subject to the agenda of a particular agency or political party. We find that even though we have regulatory requirements for clinic inspections, the most recent report on Planned Parenthood shows that these aren't being enforced thus putting women at risk.

Atrocities at abortion clinics in Pennsylvania and Texas and multiple violations of health requirements at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood facility where 23 ambulances have been called in the last 4 years, at least 8 of those occurring in 2013, illustrate the need for this legislation.

Budget Bills

As the budget moves through the process over the next 5 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 help them choose life for their unborn babies.

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.

Economic Development

Several Economic Development bills have been filed and our Missouri Right to Life Legislative team is reviewing the impact these bills will have on funding human cloning and embryonic stem cell research with our tax dollars and state monies. The Missouri Science Innovation and Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA) and the assignment of the Missouri Technology Corporation to grant state monies to any industry without pro-life protections will be a major focus to watch for in economic development legislation again this year.

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 – Second Read and Referred to Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, January 9

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 – First Read, January 8

SB 658: Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor - Provides protections for alternatives to abortion agencies to freely engage in religious practices – First Read, January 8

SB 660: Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor - Designates the priority for the state with respect to any funding for family planning services – First Read, January 8

SJR 38: Senator Brian Nieves, Sponsor - Prohibits Missouri state government from recognizing, enforcing, or acting in furtherance of certain actions of the federal government. – First Read, January 8

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 – Second Read and Referred to Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities House Committee, January 9

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 – Second Read and Referred to Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities House Committee, January 9

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 – Second Read and Referred to Health Care Policy House Committee, January 9 – Hearing Scheduled for Wednesday, January 15

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 – Second Read and Referred to Ways and Means House Committee, January 9

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, 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 – Second Read and Referred to Health Care Policy House Committee, January 9 – Hearing Scheduled for Wednesday, January 15

HB 1307: Representative Kevin Elmer, Sponsor - Changes the current waiting period for having an abortion from 24 hours to 72 hours – First Read, January 9

HB 1313: Representative Keith Frederick, Sponsor - Amends the current waiting period for having an abortion from 24 hours to 72 hours – First Read, January 9

We are reviewing other Senate and House Bills that have been filed and will report either support or opposition as we determine the impact on pro-life issues that put innocent human lives at risk or have the opportunity to give protection.