

**Testimony of Missouri Right to Life
in Support of SB 196 before the
Senate Seniors, Families and Children Committee**

January 18, 2017

I am here on behalf of Missouri Right to Life to testify in support of SB 196. Women in this country have suffered through 44 years of legalized abortion and the grief, pain, anguish and regret that has accompanied it. The physical health risks from abortion include infection, excessive bleeding, embolism, ripping or perforation of the uterus, anesthesia complications, convulsions, hemorrhage, cervical injury, endotoxic shock, pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, future premature births and labor complications as well as increased risks of ovarian, cervical and even breast cancer. Additionally, women who have had abortions have much higher rates of depression and suicide than the general population.

Despite all these health problems, the advocates of abortion promote abortion as good for women's health. As a woman, I am offended by the abortion industry's claim that opposition to abortion equates to a war on women. Abortion is totally contrary to women's health!

The abortion industry promotes legalized abortion, claiming it should be safe, legal and rare. Sadly, the only thing legalizing abortion did is make it legal. Since Roe v. Wade, abortion numbers have skyrocketed. So much for rare. And the law did nothing to guaranty that abortions are safe. The abortion supporters claimed that legalization would eliminate the back-alley, coat-hanger abortions. But legalization came without regulation. All legalization did was take the abortionist out of hiding. The abortionist did not change his method or procedures.

This is evidenced by the case of the Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell who performed his abortions in filthy conditions on blood-stained tables with unsterile equipment. Then he would snip babies spinal cords in their neck to kill them when they were born alive, and he would keep the babies remains in jars all around the facility. And his is not an isolated case. Witness the Houston, Texas abortionist Douglas Karpen who twists the heads off the necks of born alive babies. Is this a surprise in an industry that kills babies for profit?

The negligent operation at the St. Louis abortion mill has resulted in at least 60 ambulance visits to the mill since June, 2009. Why has our government/regulators failed women in their oversight of this abortion facility? Why are inspections not being done on a regular basis? There needs to be more oversight of a facility that takes the lives of babies and where women's health and lives are at stake. SB 196 simply gives direction to the Attorney General of Missouri to be active in their jurisdiction over abortion facilities for the protection of women.

For these reasons MRL supports SB 196 and encourages passage of this important life-saving legislation for the protection of women and innocent babies.