

**TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
BEFORE THE HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 99
January 27, 2015**

Missouri Right to Life supports the passage of HB 99. HB 99 has two parts. The first element of HB 99 is to simply expand parental notification to include both custodial parents or the guardian of the minor in writing at least seven days prior to an abortion. This occurs after the physician has secured the informed written consent of the minor and one parent.

Parents have a protectable interest in the life, health and well-being of their child. Abortion has multiple risks and all parents should be informed of an impending abortion on their child. In today's times when young people, still under age and on their parents insurance, are pulled many different directions by family issues, parental notification is essential to all parents in the protection of their child's health. This bill includes legitimate protections against parents who have been convicted of sexual abuse of that minor or whose parental rights have been terminated.

The second element of HB 99 is to ensure that Alternative to Abortion Agencies can operate and provide life-saving information and services to women in crisis situations without harassment. The state cannot restrict an Alternatives to Abortion Agency from their connection with a religious organization or inhibit their freedom of speech.

Missouri Right to Life encourages your support and passage of HB 99.