

Legislative Update – April 12, 2013

Spotlight for the Week

On Tuesday, April 9th, the Missouri House Rules Committee heard HCR 35 which requests the Attorney General to appeal the ruling by Judge Audrey Fleissig on SB 749 which was passed in the 2012 legislative session. SB 749 seeks to give protection for our religious institutions and people of faith not to be forced to participate in any insurance plan that requires the inclusion of abortion causing drugs or devices.

On Thursday, April 11th, the Missouri House took up and passed HCR 35 by a strong bi-partisan vote of 111 to 38. On this same day, Attorney General Koster announced that he will not appeal Judge Fleissig's ruling.

Priority Pro-Life Legislation

SB 175 & HB 400 - Establishes the requirements for the administration and regulation of RU-486 and other abortion-inducing drugs and chemicals and would ban web-cam abortions in MO. When web-cam abortions began in Iowa they went from approximately 5 abortion clinics to 17. We do not want this to happen in Missouri!

SB 175 is sponsored by Senator Wayne Wallingford. Chairman of the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, Senator Bob Dixon reported SB 175 do pass to the Senate, April 4. SB 175 is now on the Senate Formal Calendar, Senate Bills for Perfection. We ask the Senate to take up and pass SB 175 to stop web-cam abortions in Missouri.

HB 400 is sponsored by Representative Jeanie Riddle and 114 other House members (a veto proof bi-partisan majority). HB 400 is on the House Calendar for Perfection.

Budget Bills

Hearings in the Senate Appropriation Committee on all budget bills have been ongoing this week. The Senate is nearing the end of their committee work on these bills, and they will soon move to the Senate floor for debate. Once the Senate completes their floor debate on these budget bills, the House and Senate must come to a compromise between the two versions. Appropriation Bills must be Truly Agreed and Finally Passed by May 10th. These bills still have a long way to go before they are completed.

Thank-you to all House members that supported the Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) program and the public awareness program for A2A, found in HCS HB 5. At this point in the process, the House budgeted \$1,533,561 for the Alternatives to Abortion program and \$50,000 for the A2A public awareness program.

Thank-you to all House members that supported pro-life protections on HCS HB 7, the Economic Development and Appropriation Budget Bill. The pro-life language in Section 7.035 of HCS HB 7 will prevent the tax dollars in this bill from funding human cloning and research on human embryos.

Economic Development

Several Economic Development bills moved to debate this week. There was much debate about amendments for HCS HB 389 and HCS #2 HB 698. Both bills need pro-life amendments depending on the next step of action. Missouri Right to Life has asked for pro-life protective language that would prevent our tax dollars, or tax credits and tax incentives to be given to any business that does abortion, human cloning or embryonic stem cell research.

There are a multitude of economic development bills that are moving and being amended. We are monitoring all these bills and will take positions at different stages of the bills progress as if problems with the bills arise.

Click the following link to see a memo distributed to House and Senate members in hard copy or electronically regarding open-ended business codes that would include human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Look here for recommended pro-life amendments for these bills: <http://missourilife.org/assets/hb698.html>

Movement on Pro-life Legislation: NOTE: Last Day of Session is Friday, May 17 at 6:00 p.m.

In the Missouri State Senate:

SB 20 (Includes SB's 15 & 19): Senator Bob Dixon (and Senator Ron Richard), Sponsors – Reinstates and extends the Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits – Signed by the Governor, March 29th in Cape Girardeau.

SB 40: Senator Scott Sifton, Sponsor - Immediate Coverage for Maternity Benefits – Second Read and Referred to Committee, January 10

SB 50: Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor - Protection for PRC Alternative to Abortion Providers to Freely Engage in Religious Practices – Hearing Completed in the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, February 18. Bill Still in Committee.

SB 84: Senator Scott Rupp, Sponsor - Protection of Conscience Rights of Medical Professionals – SCS SB 84 Voted Do Pass, March 11

SB 111: Senator Ed Emery, Sponsor – Protection for a Pharmacy Owner from being Forced to Carry any Drug or Device – Second Read and Referred to Committee, January 24

SB 126: Senator David Sater, Sponsor – Protection for a Pharmacy Owner from being Forced to Carry any Drug or Device – Passed the Missouri Senate on Thursday, April 4th by a vote of 24 to 9. House Hearing Scheduled, April 17

SB 175: Senator Wayne Wallingford, Sponsor – Regulation of RU 486, Ban on Web Cam Abortions – Voted do pass by the Senate Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, April 2. Reported in to the Senate by Senator Bob Dixon, Chairman of the Committee and placed on the Senate Formal Calendar, Senate Bills for Perfection, April

SB 185: Senator David Sater, Sponsor – Criminalizes Drug Abuse During Pregnancy – Second Read and Referred to Committee, January 31

SB 318: Senator Scott Rupp, Sponsor – Updates Abortion Statistic Reporting – Second Read and Referred to Committee, February 28

SB 393: Senator Doug Libla, 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 Committee, March 13

SJR 17: Senator Brian Nieves, Sponsor – Seeks Voter Approval to Give Support for State's Right to Refuse to Legalize or Fund Abortion if Forced to by the Federal Government. This is One Part of a Larger Resolution that Includes Numerous Conservative Issues – Second Read and Referred to Committee, March 13

In the Missouri State House:

HB 31: Rep. Chuck Gatschenberger, Sponsor – Protection for PRC Alternative to Abortion Providers to Freely Engage in Religious Practices – Voted Do Pass Out of Committee, March 12

HB 87: Rep. Eric Burlison, Sponsor – Reinstates and extends the Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits – Passed House, Second Read in Senate and Referred to Committee, February 20

HB 177: Rep. Andrew Koenig, Sponsor – Abortion Inducing Drug Safety Act: Regulation of RU 486 – Voted Do Pass Out of Committee, March 13

HB 288: Rep. John McCaherty, Sponsor – Reinstates and removes sunsets of the Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits – HCS Voted Do Pass Out of Committee, February 19

HB 298: Rep. Keith English, Sponsor - Requires an ultrasound to be conducted and reviewed with the pregnant woman prior to the 24-hour waiting period for an abortion - HCS Voted Do Pass Out of Committee, March 13

HB 378: Rep. Mike Kelley, Sponsor – Protection for a Pharmacy Owner from being Forced to Carry any Drug or Device – Referred to Committee, February 27

HB 386: Rep. John McCaherty, Sponsor - Prohibits an abortion solely due to the sex of the unborn child or a genetic abnormality diagnosis – Hearing Completed in the House Health Care Policy Committee, March 6

HB 400: Rep. Jeanie Riddle, Sponsor – Ban on Web Cam Abortions – Hearing Completed in the House Health Care Policy Committee, March 13 - Rules Committee Reported Do Pass, March 14 – On the House Perfection Calendar

HB 457: Rep. 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 – Passed the House by a veto-proof bi-partisan majority of 116 yes to 41 no, March 12 – Senate Hearing Scheduled, April 15

HB 716: Rep. Jeff Grisamore, Sponsor - Establishes the "Show-Me Healthy Babies Program" as a separate CHIPs program for low-income unborn children – Hearing Completed in the House Children, Families and Persons With Disabilities Committee, March 26

HCR 35: Rep. Tim Jones, Sponsor - Requests the Attorney General to argue on appeal that the federal contraception mandate violates the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act as well as the First Amendment of the Constitution, Passed House by a vote of 111 yes to 38 no, April 11

HJR 19: Rep. 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 - This Resolution would address the health care rationing in Obamacare - Hearing Completed in the House Health Care Policy Committee, March 13, Referred to Rules, April 11

Senate Bills Opposed by Missouri Right to Life:

SB 93: Repeals provision making changes enacted by Senate Bill 7, MOSIRA (1st Ext. Sess. 2011) contingent on the passage of another act - This act would remove the connecting language and put MOSIRA into effect. Second Read and Referred to Committee, January 17

SCR 6: Urges ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. A State ERA has been used for the basis to publicly fund abortion. Hearing was Cancelled, February 5

House Bills Opposed by Missouri Right to Life:

HCR 36: Urges ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. A State ERA has been used for the basis to publicly fund abortion. Read Second Time, April 2