

Legislative Update - January 25, 2013

Reinstatement of Tax Credits for Pregnancy Resource Centers, HB 87 and SB's 15 & 20, highlighted this week in Missouri House and Senate Committees. These bills are all known as the "Benevolent Tax Credit Bills". They include a multitude of social need tax credits which include tax credits for the Pregnancy Resource Centers.

These benevolent tax credits have been separated, at this time, from the larger economic development business tax credit legislation. The Pregnancy Resource Center tax credits serve to help pregnancy resource centers in their fund-raising efforts in order to be able to help women in crisis pregnancies choose life for their unborn children.

A hearing was held in the House Children, Families and People with Disabilities Committee on Tuesday, Jan. 22 on HB 87. We expect this bill to move out of committee quickly and move to the House floor for debate. We encourage everyone to contact their Representative to support HB 87 and the PRC Tax Credits.

Likewise, a hearing was held in the Senate Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee on Wednesday, Jan 23 on SB's 15 & 20. This Committee then met on Thursday, Jan 24 and voted out a Senate Committee Sub which combined SB's 15, 19 & 20. The 10 Yes and 0 No votes to pass these bills out of committee is due to the support of the variety of benevolent tax credits which includes the Pregnancy Resource Center tax credits. We urge you to contact your Senator and ask them to support SCS SB's 15,19 & 20.

The House and Senate could take these Pregnancy Resource Center tax credit bills up for debate as early as next week.

Movement on other Pro-life Legislation:

In the Missouri State Senate:

SB 40 - Immediate Coverage for Maternity Benefits – Second Read and Referred to Committee

SB 50 – Protection for PRC Alternative to Abortion Providers to Freely Engage in Religious Practices – Second Read and Referred to Committee

SB 84 – Protection of Conscience Rights of Medical Professionals – Second Read and Referred to Committee

SB 111 – Protection for a Pharmacy Owner from being Forced to Carry any Drug or Device – Second Read and Referred to Committee

SB 126 – Protection for a Pharmacy Owner from being Forced to Carry and Drug or Device – First Read

SB 175 – Ban on Web Cam Abortions – First Read

SB 185 – Criminalizes Drug Abuse During Pregnancy – First Read

In the Missouri State House:

HB 31 – Protection for PRC Alternative to Abortion Providers to Freely Engage in Religious Practices – Second Read

HB 177 – Abortion Inducing Drug Safety Act: Regulation of RU 486 – Second Read

Note: Rep. Jeanie Riddle is gathering signatures for the House Bill to Ban Web-Cam Abortions – Please call your Representative ASAP and ask him/her if they have signed on to co-sponsor this life-saving legislation.

Regarding Economic Development Legislation:

We are following a multitude of economic development legislation to watch for language that would put innocent human lives at risk due to open-ended life sciences research that would include human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. We will keep you updated on needed phone calls when necessary.

Thank you for your involvement to ensure protection for innocent human lives through the legislative process! See you in Jefferson City on February 19 at the "Show Me Life Action Day"!