TESTIMONY OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE IN OPPOSITION TO HB1848 March 4, 2014

Missouri Right to Life opposes HB1848 because it places an undue burden on those organizations and individuals who work to assist women.

First, pregnancy-related services are not defined in the bill. Does this extend to those who sell or provide maternity clothes to women or to exercise classes offered to pregnant women that may post the business card of an ob/gyn who does ultrasounds on their bulletin board? While the bill exempts physicians and other health care professionals, it does not exempt referrals to those same professionals.

The bill also constitutes an infringement on these organizations free speech rights as it is vague and overbroad in its scope and fails to provide a compelling state interest for the constitutional infringement. In fact it would be contradictory to the states interest in preserving women's health.

Therefore, Missouri Right to Life opposes passage of HB1848.