

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Steve Rupp, President - Gerard Nieters, Legislative - Dave Plemmons, MRL PAC Chairman - Susan Klein, Legislative Liaison

TO: Honorable Members of the Missouri State Senate

DATE: May 11, 2016

RE: **Planned Parenthood Escaping Accountability as Session Closes**

As the 2016 General Assembly session reaches its final hours, Missouri Right to Life (MRL) is profoundly disappointed and amazed that it appears as if no legislative action will be taken to address the scandalous prospect of the sale of baby body parts by Planned Parenthood.

For many months, Missourians have seen and heard continual press reports of the Sanctity of Life Committee, the videos of Planned Parenthood and their flagrant disregard for the lives of the unborn that they reduce to commodities, and the resistance of accountability from Planned Parenthood leadership and the pathology labs with whom they contract.

While it is appreciated that the General Assembly has taken budgetary steps to keep tax revenue from abortion providers, and that the State House of Representatives has passed numerous Pro-Life measures, there is still progress that can be made in the Missouri Senate. But we are running out of time.

We have seen substantial laws enacted recently in neighboring states like Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas that promote the protection of the unborn in meaningful ways. Yet it seems there is an arbitrary resistance to such efforts in the Missouri Senate. MRL and the voters are quite curious as to why.

Each election year, there is a mad dash for each conservative candidate, including current officeholders, to proclaim themselves as a "Pro-Life" champion and a warrior for "values". The Missouri Right to Life Political Action Committee (MRL PAC) would like to be able to communicate with voters how committed the Missouri legislators are to advancing Pro-Life legislation. It looks as though the Missouri Senate will prevent such proclamations from being made in 2016.

There is still time to do what needs to be done to hold Planned Parenthood accountable. The State Senate can still pass HB 2069, which would make sure there is no sale of baby body parts in Missouri!

There is no reason that such a majority, that has been elected by hundreds of thousands of Pro-Life voters, should not pass this common-sense legislation to guard against the abuses perpetrated by Planned Parenthood. Whether it be the biotech lobby, the minority party demands, or the claims of a liberal Attorney General, we need to put the lives of unborn children first. Our state will face serious ballot challenges this year, and there is no upside to keeping Pro-Life legislation from advancing and passing.