

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Missouri House of Representatives

FROM: Pam Fichter, President
Gerard Nieters, Legislative Director

DATE: March 19, 2012

RE: Status of Pro-Life Legislation Supported by Missouri Right to Life

As you enter the last half of the legislative session we wanted to give you an update on legislation that Missouri Right to Life has supported in testimony or has worked with members of your body to amend so that now Missouri Right to Life either moves to support or goes neutral because the pro-life concerns have been addressed. Although our position could change based on amended language on any bill, this is an overview of where we are today on several issues.

First and foremost we want to thank the Budget Chair Rep. Ryan Silvey for amending the Department of Economic Development Appropriations bill (HB 2007) to include the protections of 196.1127 that have been used in the past several years. We thank Rep. Silvey, Rep. Randy Asbury and Rep. Dwight Scharnhorst for making this amendment and speaking in favor of it in Budget Committee. As long as this amendment is included in HB 2007, MRL is neutral on the bill. At this point there appears to be no pro-life concerns outside of the 2 sections where the pro-life protections have been placed.

MRL has supported the following legislation to date:

Addressing the Rights of Conscience in Various Forms: SB 749 - Sen. John Lamping, HB 1730 – Rep. Stanley Cox, SJR 49 – Sen. Scott Rupp, HCR 41 – Rep. Paul Curtman, SCS SB 657 – Sen. Scott Rupp, HCS HB 1541 – Rep. Tim Jones, SJR 39 – Sen. Jane Cunningham, HJR 64 – Rep. Paul Curtman, HB 1534 – Rep. Kurt Bahr, HJR 72 – Rep. Kurt Bahr, SJR 45 – Sen. Brian Nieves

Ban on Tele-Med/Video Conferencing Abortions and Regulation of RU 486: SB 658 – Sen. Scott Rupp, SB 772 – Sen. Dan Brown, HCS HB 1274 – Rep. Andrew Koenig

Pharmacy Conscience Legislation: HB 1075 – Rep. David Sater

Extension of Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits: SB 582 – Sen. Tom Dempsey, HB 1435 – Rep. Shane Schoeller, HB 1278 – Rep. Thomas Long

Protection for Alternative to Abortion Providers: SB 745 – Sen. Jim Lembke, HB 1357 – Rep. Chuck Gatschenberger

Continued Funding for Alternatives to Abortion Funding: HB 2005 – Rep. Ryan Silvey

Tracking of how many of our Federal Tax Dollars are given to abortion facilities: HB 1385 – Rep. Stanley Cox

MRL will continue to monitor any changes in these pieces of legislation as well as any other amendments that may bring us into the debate on any piece of legislation because of any and all life issues.

We appreciate the support of all pro-life legislators in their work to speak out on life issues during debate in committee and on the House floor. We look forward to continuing our work with you as this session continues. Please do not hesitate to call Susan Klein, our Legislative Liaison, if you have any questions on any piece of legislation.