

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Missouri House
FROM: Steve Rupp, President
Gerard Nieters, Legislative Director
DATE: March 29, 2017
RE: Support of HCS HB 174 and the Emergency Clause

Missouri Right to Life strongly supports HCS HB 174 and its emergency clause. We commend the House for their timely action on this legislation and urge support for both the bill and the emergency clause.

HCS HB 174 is necessary because an ordinance (BB 203 - "with an emergency clause") was passed by the Board of Aldermen in the City of St. Louis interfering with the religious liberty of alternatives-to-abortion agencies and other religious organizations and their agents to freely engage in religious practices and speech that does not include abortion.

In HCS HB 174, a political subdivision of this state is preempted from enacting, adopting, or enforcing any ordinance or any other form of regulation that would interfere with, or otherwise adversely affect religious liberty.

Unless HCS HB 174 is enacted immediately, BB 203 will force alternative-to-abortion agencies, churches and others to be complicit in the profound evil of abortion. HCS HB 174 would give clear protection to the religious liberty of alternatives-to-abortion agencies and any other religious organizations and their agents to freely engage in religious practices and speech without government interference.

Passage of the emergency clause in HCS HB 174 is needed to immediately stop this violation of religious liberty enacted with BB 203.

We encourage the House to give final approval of HCS HB 174 and the emergency clause and send it to the Senate for passage.