



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Missouri Senate

FROM: Steve Rupp, President
Gerard Nieters, Legislative Director
Susan Klein, Executive Director

DATE: April 12, 2021

RE: Pro-Life Amendment on SB 1

As you know, on Tuesday, March 23 the Missouri Senate voted on the following pro-life amendment to the Senate Sub to SB 1. The following amendment relates to the State family planning funding in the MO HealthNet Program. Missouri's current Mo HealthNet statute provides for payments on behalf of eligible needy persons for:

208.152. 1 (12) Family planning as defined by federal rules and regulations; provided, however, that such family planning services **shall not include:**

- (a) Abortions unless such abortions are certified in writing by a physician to the MO HealthNet agency that, in the physician's professional judgment, the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term; and

The following Pro-life Amendment was added on March 23 as ineligible for Family Planning funds:

- (b) Any drug or device approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration that may cause the destruction of, or prevent the implantation of, an unborn child, as defined in section 188.015;

This issue has been a major concern for pro-life people across Missouri and the United States since the passage of the so-called "Affordable Cares Act" that would force businesses like Hobby Lobby and religious organizations like the "Little Sisters of the Poor" and all of us to pay for drugs that are known to be abortifacients through insurance programs.

Advocates for unborn human lives are united in the commitment to stopping public funding of abortions.

Missouri Right to Life has been consistent over the years in opposing the pro-abortion provisions of the so-called "Affordable Cares Act". When the pro-abortion Biden Administration does away with the Hyde Amendment, the above pro-life amendment will give Missouri leaders of Mo HealthNet direction on what pro-life Missourians do not want to spend our public dollars on.

Pro-Life Missourians are more interested in saving innocent lives and finding solutions to help women and mothers rather than being forced to pay for abortions and abortion drugs.

For these reasons, Missouri Right to Life strongly supports the "pro-life amendment" to Senate Sub #1 to SB 1 and respectfully asks the Missouri Senate to retain this new pro-life provision in any further actions to MO HealthNet. Our goal is to save innocent human lives in all cases and work to prevent our public dollars from paying for abortions and the destruction of innocent human lives from conception until natural death.