



TESTIMONY FOR INFORMATION ONLY ON SB 356

BEFORE THE SENATE

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

ON

MAY 3, 2023

Missouri pro-life legislators have worked for years to put in place statutes to ensure protections for unborn babies and for women. While administrations change in Missouri and in Washington, Missouri Right to Life has always shared the facts on abortifacient drugs and abortion and we will continue to share the truth.

Missouri has become the first state to ban abortion with the exception being to save the life of the mother. Much time has been spent over the years since Roe was wrongly decided by the court, asking women how we could have helped them in their decision to choose life for their unborn child and help them in their situations.

Our goal is to help women, not prosecute them. Missouri Right to Life has been very open about our position to reach out and help women. This position is evident in our support of the legislators work to support funding for the Alternatives to Abortion Program and the Show-Me Healthy Babies Insurance Program.

Pro-life leaders in Missouri as well as across the United States have taken a position against prosecution of women. We have seen through discussions with post-abortive women, that there is a large percentage of women who have been coerced or forced to have abortions. Because we want to help these women, Missouri Right to Life will not support the prosecution of these moms, but rather we will take the position of compassion and seek ways to help women choose life for their unborn babies and help women in these crisis situations.

Life begins at conception and these unborn babies and their moms should continue to receive the protections of our Missouri statutes that pro-life legislators have worked for over all these years.

For these reasons Missouri Right to Life asks that the prosecution of women be taken out of SB 356.