



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Loudon  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release:**  
**Oct. 27, 2005**

**Contact: Nick Bengston**  
**(573) 751-9763**

## Missouri's Parental Consent Restoration Act Had First Hearing Today

---

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, today detected promising dialog from today's court proceedings in the lawsuit brought against his pro-life legislation.

"It is my belief that Judge Atwell indicated great deference to the overwhelming support of this legislation by the public as represented by the Legislature and the Governor," Loudon said. "I personally appreciate his acknowledgment. The question now seems to lie in whether the judge finds this more compelling than the purported rights of abortion counselors (amateur and professional) to steer minor girls to have abortions without the consent of their parents. I'm hopeful these early comments ultimately lead to a ruling that sustains the law, which will in turn sustain the rights of Missouri's parents and the rights of our precious unborn."

While noting that free speech issues may present a factor to consider, Circuit Court Judge Charles Atwell made clear he believes the state Legislature's action in passing the bill signals the will of the majority of Missouri's people.

"The judge indicated that the 1st Amendment right to freedom of speech was something he has to consider," Loudon said. "As the sponsor of the Bill of Rights Day legislation (December 15th), I share his concern. However, I categorically object to the argument by Planned Parenthood that speech is at issue. We set the standard of intent in this bill to safeguard that no councilor will be in jeopardy for an accidental act.

While reserving the right to rule on the matter in open court, Judge Atwell noted he was inclined to issue a written ruling on Loudon's pro-life legislation by November 14th. Until then, the temporary restraining order on the enactment of the law will remain in place.

\*\*\*

Approved by the Missouri Legislature and Governor Blunt during this year's September special session, Loudon's pro-life measure bolsters Missouri's parental consent law requiring individuals under age 18 seeking abortions to show their doctors written permission from a parent or legal guardian or from a judge before undergoing the procedure.

Senate Bill 1 makes civilly liable individuals who help circumvent Missouri law by transporting pregnant minors to states without such parental rights. Senate Bill 1 was then challenged in state court by pro-choice activists. (A similar lawsuit brought in federal court was dropped after a Springfield abortion clinic permanently closed its doors.)

-END-