



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. John Loudon Applauds Decision by Jackson County Circuit Court Upholding Pro-Life Bill

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, today announced that he is pleased with today's decision by the Jackson County Circuit Court sustaining pro-life legislation passed earlier this year. Senate Bill 1, which strengthens Missouri's parental consent law, had been challenged in court by pro-choice activists.

"I am happy to see that this misguided lawsuit challenging a bill that received bipartisan, statewide support has been thrown out," Loudon said. "Despite the legal challenge, we have always been confident in the language of this democratically approved measure. The important issue is we are victorious in round one, but the game is not over. This legislation has always been about restoring the proper roles of parents and making abortions safer."

Jackson County Circuit Judge Charles Atwell on Thursday ruled that SB 1 is constitutional. However, Atwell also issued an injunction against enforcement of the law pending an appeal that is expected to be filed to the Missouri Supreme Court. Atwell also ruled that no one could be investigated or disciplined for possibly violating the law until a ruling is issued by the high court.

SB 1 passed during the special legislative session in September. The legislation reinforces Missouri's parental consent law, which requires individuals under age 18 who are seeking abortions to show their doctors written permission from a parent or legal guardian or from a judge before undergoing the procedure. SB 1 makes civilly liable individuals who help transport minors across state lines to get abortions, in violation of the parents' rights.

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The measure also requires physicians at abortion clinics to have admitting privileges at hospitals within 30 miles of the abortion clinic, a view Loudon sees as an important tenet of a safe procedure.

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