



## Pro-Life Legislation

### *Important Pro-Life Legislation Gains Approval by Senate*

This week, the Missouri Senate approved legislation that will strengthen abortion-related laws. Among other things, the legislation allows lawsuits against people who help minors evade Missouri's parental consent laws to obtain abortions in other states. Current Missouri law requires females under the age of 18 to get permission from a parent, guardian, or court before receiving an abortion. Many pregnant teens evade Missouri law by traveling to other states, such as Illinois, that do not require minors to have permission. When a person has an abortion, it affects the would-be mother mentally, emotionally and physically. Missouri's parental consent law was created to encourage parents and their pregnant minors to choose a course of action together. Our children should not be alone in the decision-making process. Circumventing the law should not be legal, especially when the well-being of our children and our children's children is at stake. This legislation holds accountable those who help girls dodge Missouri's law to end their pregnancy without parental consent.

Other provisions in the legislation prohibit spending public funds on health or social service programs that directly or indirectly support abortion. Entities that provide counseling to pregnant women that receive public funds may only provide non-directive pregnancy counseling, meaning they cannot advise pregnant women to have an abortion or lead them to entities that provide abortions. These entities are also prohibited from displaying or distributing material promoting abortion services.

Additionally, the bill protects those receiving abortions by requiring physicians who provide obstetric/gynecological care to have clinical privileges at a hospital within 30 miles from where they perform abortions. Physicians without those privileges could be charged with a class B felony and face up to 15 years in prison. This will ensure that women who get an abortion will receive the best care and insure that qualified hospital would be nearby if any complications occur.

Two provisions in the bill aim at promoting alternatives to abortion. One calls for people to be able to file for a tax credit if they contribute to pregnancy support center, which provides support to women and encourages birth over abortion. Another specification in the measure requires physicians to include in their report the reason why the woman decided to have the abortion, and if she had been using

birth control. This will foster a documented conversation between the physician and the patient and make the woman aware of the ramifications of terminating her pregnancy.

These are significant changes to the law that will serve to protect unborn children while also protecting those who are pregnant. With overwhelming legislative and gubernatorial support, I expect this bill to soon become law.

## **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

Thank you for your time.

*Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.*