



## MISSOURI SENATE

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# Sen. Jason Crowell Proposes Stronger Abortion-Related Laws

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JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, announced today that he will be pre-filing four bills aimed at moving Missouri's pro-life platform forward.

"This set of bills protects the sanctity and value of life," Crowell said. "The rights of the unborn include the right to be born, and through this legislation, we can prevent people from taking that right away."

### ***1. Plan B Can Only Be Obtained With a Prescription***

The first measure deals with the availability of the emergency contraceptive pill sold under the brand name, Plan B, which, if taken within 72 hours of intercourse, can prevent pregnancy. Currently, all but eight states require a prescription before a woman can obtain Plan B, but Crowell anticipates that the Food and Drug Administration will eventually approve the pill to be sold over-the-counter.

"Before the FDA can weaken the much-needed restrictions, I feel it is necessary that we preemptively strengthen our laws so that this controversial pill can only be obtained with a prescription," Crowell said. "That said, I think we also owe pharmacists the right to a clean conscience by not forcing them to violate their personal beliefs about abortion."

### ***2. Pharmacists Can Refuse to Fill Prescriptions Used in the Administering of Abortions***

To protect these conscience rights, Crowell is also proposing a new law that allows pharmacists to refuse to perform, assist, recommend, refer for, or participate in any service or fill prescriptions for any drug or device that they think is used to administer abortions.

### ***3. The State Cannot Spend Money on Programs that Support Abortion***

Crowell also wants to clamp down on the financial support that goes toward abortion. Under the third piece of legislation, the state cannot spend money on health or social service programs that directly or indirectly support abortion. Entities that provide counseling to pregnant women who receive public funds cannot advise those women to have an abortion or lead them to places that provide abortions. These entities are also prohibited from displaying or distributing material promoting abortion services.

### ***4. Those Who Contribute to Pregnancy Support Centers Can Get a 50-percent Tax Credit***

In an effort to reward those who back pro-life notions, the final bill of the quartet enables people to file for a 50-percent tax credit if they contribute to a pregnancy support center, which encourages birth rather than abortion.

“With a majority of the legislature passionately opposed to abortion, I expect this package of pro-life legislation to garner much support,” Crowell said. “We simply want to deter women from ending the lives of unborn children, and passing these measures will mark long-overdue progress for Missouri’s prevailing pro-life movement.”

Lawmakers can begin pre-filing legislation December 1. The Second Regular Session of the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly will convene Jan. 4, 2006.

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