



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of April 18, 2005**

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Alternatives to Abortion Bill Advances

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate has approved legislation which notes the intention of the Missouri General Assembly to recognize and affirm the right of life to all humans, whether in utero or not, to protect maternal health, to encourage childbirth over abortion and to support alternatives to abortion.

Senate Bill 2 would allow lawsuits to be filed against people who help minors skirt Missouri's parental consent laws to obtain an abortion in another state. Missouri law requires girls under the age of 18 to get consent from a parent, guardian or the courts before getting an abortion.

SB 2 establishes the Alternatives to Abortion Support Fund to be used to encourage childbirth over abortion and to support alternatives to abortion. The legislation also creates a special license plate bearing the words RESPECT LIFE with an image of a single red rose.

The legislation increases regulation of abortion providers. To perform abortions, a physician would have to have clinical privileges to provide obstetric/gynecological services at a hospital within 30 miles from where they provide abortions in Missouri. Under the Senate version, doctors who perform abortions without those hospital privileges could be charged with a class B felony and face up to 15 years in prison.

Missouri law currently requires physicians to submit an abortion report for each abortion performed. SB 2 amends state law by requiring the reports to contain information sought by federal reports and organizations, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, information regarding the type of procedure used to perform the abortion, specific reasons the

woman sought the abortion, and whether the woman used any method of family planning during the time she became pregnant.

Current law stipulates that every abortion performed at 16 weeks gestational age or later shall be performed in a hospital. SB 2 provides that no abortion shall be performed or induced except in a physician's office, outpatient clinic, hospital or ambulatory surgical center. The legislation also modifies the definition of ambulatory surgical center to include any establishment operated for the purpose of performing or inducing any second or third trimester abortions or at least five or more first trimester abortions per month.

SB 2 received final approval in the Senate this week and will be sent to the House, which approved a similar bill last month.

The First Regular Session of the 93rd General Assembly ends May 13.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas,
Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.*