



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

*Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger,
Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.*

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Conscientious Clause for Pharmacists

The Senate Judiciary Committee this week took a significant step toward protecting pharmacists' right to uphold their personal beliefs when working behind the counter. With a vote of approval from the committee, Senate Bill 609 has advanced to the Senate floor.

This measure holds that pharmaceutical professionals shall not be required to perform, assist, recommend, refer for, or participate in any service involving a drug or device that is used for abortions. The bill particularly pertains to Plan B, the "morning-after" pill, which, if taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex, can prevent a fertilized egg from becoming attached to the uterus.

Pharmacists chose their line of work because in the pharmaceutical profession, they have the ability to save lives. By administering prescribed medicine, they can help improve the health and quality of life of individuals who come to the pharmacy counter. When a requested prescription could threaten the health of a patient due to possible dangerous reactions or the risk of its habit-forming effects for a potential over-user, the pharmacist is required to abide by his or her professional conscience and refuse to fill the prescription.

By forcing pharmacists to dispense chemicals and devices that they know will be used to destroy a potential human life, they are being unwillingly compelled to abandon that professional moral conscience. In December, a Target pharmacist in St. Charles was fired after refusing to sign a document guaranteeing she would dispense Plan B or refer women to another pharmacy. This was wrong. My legislation, SB 609, will prevent this from ever happening again in

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Missouri.

conscience.”

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 or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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