



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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If Not Now, When? If Not Us, Who?

Protecting Unborn Life

Today the Missouri General Assembly is pro-life, but that might not be the case tomorrow. Therefore, pro-life legislators must vote now to once and for all protect unborn life.

Nine other states are moving legislation forward that protects unborn innocent life. The South Dakota legislature has passed legislation banning abortion and a similar measure is advancing in Mississippi. Kansas, Ohio, Indiana, Georgia, Tennessee, West Virginia and Kentucky are also considering similar legislation. My question is simple – does Missouri want to remain the Show-Me state or become the Wait-and-See state.

I have introduced in the Missouri Senate legislation outlawing abortion. Senate Bill 1248 would ban all abortions in Missouri unless the procedure is necessary to save the life of the mother. Doctors who violate this law would be charged with a Class B felony. Senate Joint Resolution 43 would establish constitutionally for Missouri a policy that protects "the life of an unborn child from conception until birth." If the legislation is passed by the Legislature, the issue would be placed on the November ballot, giving Missourians the chance to decide whether or not to protect unborn innocent life.

Since the Supreme Court's ruling in Roe v. Wade, technological advances and medical conclusions have refuted the court's opinion of when life begins. Ultrasounds, fetal heart rate monitors and DNA developments clearly show that a human being is conceived upon fertilization.

The ultrasound to the right is the face of a human fetus, 10 weeks after the sperm fertilized the egg. Look how clear and distinct this child's face is. At this age, the baby's heart is almost fully developed and 20 tiny baby teeth are forming in the gums of the child. There is vitality, there is a real human being there, but under current law, this child's life could be ended with an abortion.



I know that my legislation will challenge the precedent established by Roe v. Wade. In fact, I hope my legislation incites an all-new court battle to determine the constitutionality of outlawing abortion. The only way to overturn a Supreme Court ruling is through a new Supreme Court ruling.

Many speculate that Justices Samuel Ailito, John Roberts, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas would all vote to overturn Roe v. Wade, while Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Souter, and John Stevens would maintain their pro-abortion position. That leaves Justice Anthony Kennedy as the swing vote needed to ban abortion. Furthermore, Justice Stevens will be 86 next month. Given that it would take two or three years for such a case to reach the Supreme Court, it is possible that President Bush may have the opportunity to appoint a third Supreme Court Justice.

I was elected to the House of Representatives and the Senate on a pro-life agenda. At its core, pro-life means that you want to stop abortions. This legislation gives Missouri voters the say in whether the state should protect the sanctity of unborn life. This is a decision that voters should be able to make for themselves come this November. The issue is really that simple.

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>.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 323
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>

Phone Number:
573.751.1507
Fax:
573.522.9289

