



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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For Immediate Release:
August 8, 2007

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Sen. Loudon Decries Lower Court Decision Against Midwifery; Vows Appeal to State Supreme Court

*Decision by Cole County Court Keeps Missouri as only State to
Criminalize Centuries-old Practice*

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, is expressing his displeasure with a decision by Cole County Circuit Judge Patricia Joyce to put an injunction against implementation of the portion of House Bill 818 that made midwifery legal in this state. Missouri was set to join 39 other states in legalizing the ages-old practice of qualified midwives assisting in natural childbirth. Missouri remains the only state where it is considered a felony.

“This court has stepped in with an unfortunate decision, but we knew all along it would go to the State Supreme Court,” said Sen. Loudon. “This ruling harms women by taking away their right to make decisions about childbirth. Everyone truly concerned with women’s health and choices should decry this ruling.”

As it was passed by an overwhelming majority of the state legislature and signed by the governor, HB 818 was an omnibus bill that, in part, legalized the practice of professional homebirth healthcare and shed Missouri’s status as the only corner of the free world that made midwifery a felony.

“While the midwifery provision of HB 818 is set aside for the time being, I am glad the other important components to make private health insurance more accessible and affordable will

be preserved,” said Sen. Loudon. “But I promise that we will appeal this decision on midwifery to the State Supreme Court to make sure the will and common sense of the people of Missouri become law.”

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