



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Pro-Life Debate Begins

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JEFFERSON CITY – In 1905, a music teacher and opera singer from St. Joseph named Anna Williams became pregnant. She did not have a husband and apparently no friends to turn to for comfort. She later boarded a train for Kansas City and wound up at Union Station, desperately trying to figure her way out of the greatest crisis of her life – what to do with a newborn she loved but could not keep.

The Kansas City Star, dated March 31, 1905, reported on a young woman at Union Station seeking to give away her baby girl because “I can’t care for it the way it should be cared for.” Fifty women responded to Anna’s plea for help, and eventually Viola and Vernie Boomershine were allowed to adopt the baby girl. They named her Hazel Francis and when she was three, the family moved from Kansas City to St. Clair County in a covered wagon.

Hazel Francis was abandoned by not unloved. At the age of 16 she married her sweetheart Robbie Orval and they became the proud parents of seven healthy children. The family pastored country churches and ran a general store on the banks of the Osage River.

This illegitimate child Hazel Francis died over 15 years ago, but she left a legacy of love. Her children and grandchildren went on to become ministers, teachers, nurses, businessmen, lawyers, and even a state senator. Hazel Francis Scott, you see, was my grandma. I tell this story because if today’s casual attitudes about abortion had been in place 100 years ago, I probably wouldn’t be here today.

It’s also part of the reason why I’m a strong supporter of pro-life legislation like the bills taken up for debate in the Senate this week.

Senate Bill 370 is a combination of several pro-life bills that seek to reduce the number of abortions in Missouri. Abortions in Missouri have consistently declined since 1989. In 1980, there were 21,671 abortions in the state. By 2004, that number had dropped to 12,000, but that's still 12,000 too many.

SB 370 establishes the Alternatives to Abortion Services program, which offers counseling to pregnant women as well as assistance to women in caring for their children or putting them up for adoption. It requires licenses and inspections at 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 370 also changes current law related to information presented to public school students on contraception and sexually-transmitted diseases by adding the option of presenting students with information on contraceptives and pregnancy in a manner consistent with federal abstinence laws.

In many ways we are winning the war against abortion. A 2003 gallop Poll found 72% of American teenagers agreed that abortion is morally wrong. Another poll in California found support for abortion among college freshmen has dropped from 66% a decade ago to a bare majority of 51% last year.

We must renew our dedication to fight for life. We must defend the rights of the innocent, unborn among us.

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](mailto: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.*