



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 416
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
Week of April 16, 2007**

**Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793**

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Upheld

JEFFERSON CITY – I applaud the U.S. Supreme Court decision this week upholding the federal ban on the late term abortion procedure known as partial-birth abortion. The court found this gruesome procedure – which is basically infanticide - is never medically necessary.

The court ruled the ban does not present an undue burden to women seeking an abortion.

“The State may use its regulatory power to bar certain procedures and substitute others, all in furtherance of its legitimate interests in regulating the medical profession in order to promote the respect for life, including the life of the unborn,” wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy.

The law allows the procedure if and only if a woman’s life is at risk. Similar bans, including one in Missouri, have been blocked by activist judges.

In response to the ruling, President Bush said, “The Supreme Court’s decision is an affirmation of the progress we have made over the past six years in protecting human dignity and upholding the sanctity of life. We will continue to work for the day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law.” I heartily echo those comments.

In fact, Justices Thomas and Scalia wrote a concurring opinion that goes even further, stating there is NO constitutional right to an abortion and that there is no constitutional basis for Roe v. Wade. Thirty-four years after that disastrous decision, the courts finally seem to be moving in the right direction.

Governor Matt Blunt is calling on lawmakers to send him strong pro-life legislation this year that reflects the values of Missourians, respects the sanctity of all human life and will ultimately help to reduce the number of abortions.

I am sponsoring legislation this year that attempts to accomplish those laudable goals.

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.

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.*