



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott  
28<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 416  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the  
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**Contact: Debbie Poire  
(573) 751-8793**

# Governor Signs Pro-Life Legislation

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JEFFERSON CITY – Governor Matt Blunt this week signed legislation that seeks to reduce the number of abortions in Missouri and protect the life of the unborn. House Bill 1055 is similar to legislation I sponsored in the Senate which establishes the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion Services program.

The program provides services and counseling to pregnant women and assistance to mothers in caring for their children or placing them up for adoption. Counseling and services will be available to a woman during her pregnancy and for one year after the birth of her child.

This important legislation also changes the laws regarding sexual education instruction in public schools. The new law gives public schools the option of presenting students with information on contraception and pregnancy in a manner consistent with federal abstinence laws. Currently, students must be presented with the latest medically factual information regarding sexually transmitted diseases. HB 1055 also prohibits a person or organization that provides abortion services from offering, sponsoring, or providing course materials related to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases.

Finally, the measure changes the definition of an “ambulatory surgical center” to include any facility that performs or induces second or third trimester abortions or performs at least five or more first trimester abortions per month.

I believe we are winning the war against abortion. Three-quarters of American teenagers tell pollsters they agree abortion is morally wrong. Support for abortion among college freshmen has dropped from 66% ten years ago to just 51% last year.

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.

I applaud Governor Blunt for signing this strong pro-life legislation that reflects the values of Missourians, respects the sanctity of all human life and will ultimately help to reduce the number of abortions.

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.mo.gov](mailto:delbertscott@senate.mo.gov).

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.*