



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Abortion Group Working to Overturn Common Sense Pro-Life Law

JEFFERSON CITY – During the 2007 legislative session, I sponsored a bill to make the Alternatives to Abortion Program permanent. The provisions I introduced in the Senate were included in House Bill 1055, sponsored by Rep. Therese Sander, which was approved by a majority of lawmakers and signed by Governor Matt Blunt.

This common sense legislation supports groups providing 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 an organization like Planned Parenthood 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.

This week Planned Parenthood filed a federal lawsuit in a misguided attempt to overturn this new law.

In response to the lawsuit, Governor Blunt said, “We must protect the rights of the most vulnerable and this common sense Missouri law must be vigorously defended.”

However, it is clear Attorney General Jay Nixon cannot be counted on to vigorously defend the new law since he is a vocal supporter of abortion and has accepted campaign contributions from Planned Parenthood. Therefore, the Department of Health and Human Services has secured the services of private attorneys who have agreed to defend the law in court free of charge.

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. Hopefully we will prevail in the courts to preserve this important new law and to keep Planned Parenthood out of Missouri classrooms.

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.us.

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