



# WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



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**Week of March 26, 2007**

## **Fighting for Life through Education**

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This week in the Senate, my colleagues and I spent time working on some key life affirming legislation (Senate Bill 370). This bill contains several important issues that will emphasize and uphold Missouri's commitment to preserving life.

The children of Missouri are facing tough choices everyday, and it is our job to give them the tools to make the right choices. We also need to make sure that the people who are providing these critical lessons have the proper intentions in mind, helping our children make moral decisions. This legislation prohibits any person who provides abortion services to supply course material or instruction during a sexual education course. Through this bill, students will learn that the only one hundred percent effective way of avoiding pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases is through refraining from sexual activity, and they will learn that material from instructors who have the best interests of our students in mind. The children of Missouri should be taught the most effective sexual education program by the most effective teachers.

Throughout Missouri, there are organizations that provide valuable services to pregnant women. These groups, such as Lifechoices Crisis Pregnancy Center in Joplin, make it their goal to make medical treatment, counseling services, and adoption options available to pregnant women in this state, and they do so without taking lives. Many of these organizations help a new mother find financial assistance and make it possible for her to get essentials such as car seats, cribs, and clothing for her baby. They also help women who have decided the best option for their baby is adoption, helping them locate the proper resources as well as giving counseling.

Senate Bill 370 rewards these important organizations by creating the Missouri Alternatives to Abortion Services Program. This program provides state funding to commend these groups' commitment to uphold the value of life while providing an essential service to the

women of Missouri. The bill specifically prohibits organizations that perform, induce, or assist abortions from being eligible for the funding. The bill also creates the Abortion Public Awareness Program in which state agencies will publicize alternatives to abortion. The bill ensures funding for both the services and awareness programs.

Emotions can run high for an expectant mother, making her particularly susceptible to undue influence when considering how to proceed with a pregnancy. As such, Senate Bill 370 enacts penalties for anyone unlawfully inducing or helping to induce an abortion. For those who ultimately do seek abortion services, the bill places abortion providing facilities under the strict operating requirements applied to ambulatory (out-patient) surgical centers to improve patient safety.

The bill has been slowed by a relatively small, isolated pocket of opposition intent on advocating philosophies that run counter to those held by most Missourians. The Senate, being the more deliberative of the two legislative chambers, is designed to allow opposition to run its course. But at some point, I anticipate the bill will be brought to a vote so constituents can see how their Senate members stand on the matter. I believe most lawmakers will stand where Missourians clearly stand: with life and life-affirming education.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper  
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*