

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



Column For April 29, 2010

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Persistence on Abortion Legislation

One of my core beliefs is that persistence pays off, and that is certainly true this week with the Senate's approval of [Senate Bill 793](#), my legislation that would strengthen abortion requirements here in Missouri.

I've been fighting for this legislation in various forms since 2007, and this time I hope that my colleagues in the Legislature see the value in these provisions and enact them into law. If passed, this law would require mothers to get professional counseling, see printed materials that show the development of the child, and give them an opportunity to hear the heartbeat or see and ultrasound of the baby.

As a father, I know firsthand the power held by the actions outlined in this legislation. There is nothing more powerful then when you first meet the life you helped to create. In fact, I am counting on the power of that feeling to deter the mother from making that ultimate decision to end the child's life. In addition, this bill will bring to light that the procedure causes the child pain. As long as abortion is legal under federal law, we must do everything we can to get the truth in front of these mothers.

The responsibility of the father was mentioned during the debate, and I agree that it is an important facet. This law would also explain to the mother the liability of the father to pay child support. I have supported Missouri's tough child support legislation throughout my career, and I have faith that our laws make sure the father performs his responsibilities.

The legislation also requires a referral to the Alternatives to Abortion program, which is run by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. This program provides assistance to mothers before and after the birth, and those services range from adoption to food and clothing, job placement, or domestic abuse counseling and drug and alcohol treatment. There is no situation the Alternatives to Abortion group cannot handle, and they have had many success stories.

In addition to all of these provisions, my legislation also outlaws any health insurance exchanges from offering any health insurance coverage to abortion, like the exchanges that are offered in the federal health care legislation.

I know that mothers who consider abortion often face terrible situations, but I fully believe and pray that this law will provide that universal instinct to care and love that child. Even though the times may be tough, with a little persistence, there can be brighter days ahead.

If you have any questions or concerns about this legislation or your state government, you may always contact my office at 1-877-291-5584.

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