

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, the deeply held religious convictions and moral beliefs of the people of the State of Missouri and the City of Saint Louis should be respected rather than attacked; and

Whereas, Saint Louis Board of Aldermen Board Bill 203 would allow the City of Saint Louis to penalize by fines of up to five hundred dollars and imprisonment for up to ninety days, property owners and Missouri citizens who choose not to be associated with the abortion industry; and

Whereas, Board Bill 203 would allow the City of Saint Louis to penalize by fines of up to five hundred dollars and imprisonment for up to ninety days, religious institutions and Missourians of faith for making employment decisions based upon their religious beliefs and practices; and

Whereas, Board Bill 203 would force the citizens of Missouri and the City of Saint Louis to be complicit in the intrinsic evil of abortion; and

Whereas, Board Bill 203 would violate religious liberty and individual rights to conscience; and

Whereas, Board Bill 203 would represent a grave abuse of local authority and threaten constitutional liberties of the residents of, and property owners and employers in, the State of Missouri and the City of Saint Louis, including those guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, the Missouri Constitution, and Missouri law, such as the Missouri Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 2003 and Senate Bill 749 of 2012; and

Whereas, it should be the moral imperative of all governmental bodies to RESPECT and PROTECT life at all of its stages; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that citizens cannot be compelled to violate their religious practices and beliefs, such as in its 2014 decision of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*; and

Whereas, Board Bill 203 would violate Missouri law related to the regulation of abortion, including but limited to, the right of conscience of health care providers and institutions, employers, and taxpayers who oppose abortion and the funding thereof, as found in Chapters 188, 191, and 197 of the Missouri statutes:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the City of Saint Louis Board of Aldermen to defeat Board Bill 203 and protect the religious liberty and right of conscience of all Missouri citizens, property owners, and employers; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen, and each member of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Saint Louis.

Resolution

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