



Monday *MONITOR*

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SB 96 NON-CONTROVERSIAL FOSTERCARE BILL NOW BURDENED WITH ABORTION AMENDMENT

SB96 (Justus, D-Kansas City), which started out as a non-controversial “Foster Care Education Bill of Rights”, has since become a 17-page House Committee ‘christmas tree’ from which other amendments hang. **Rep. Cynthia Davis** (R-O’Fallon), whose committee approved the substitute, added an amendment similar to the one she added (without the sponsor’s knowledge) to HB570 last week. The amendment would require the abortion provider to ‘preserve a tissue sample’ in the case of abortions to young women 17 years old or younger who are in foster care. Once again, Rep. Davis demonstrates her lack of understanding of current procedures. As a ward of the state, any young woman in foster care who seeks an abortion must go before a judge (her ‘parent’) to obtain written permission. At that time, the judge could make the determination of whether a ‘sexual offense’ may have been committed and could require law enforcement to be on-site at the clinic to collect a tissue sample and ensure a clear chain of evidence—which would not be the case if the clinic staff were to preserve the sample. The courts already have this recourse. This meddlesome and unnecessary amendment should be removed from this good bill in conference committee.

HB46 & 434 TO BE HEARD IN SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ON MONDAY

HB46&434 (Davis/Pratt) – the House version of the Abortion Restriction Bill – will be heard in Senate Judiciary on Monday night after two other bills. Similar to **SB264** (Mayer) which was debated for 5 hours last month, this bill contains many new, burdensome, and unnecessary requirements to the informed consent procedure for abortion and creates the new crime of “coercing an abortion.” This bill intrudes on the doctor/patient relationship and ignores the standard practice of medical care already in place for abortion providers. Under the superficial guise of ‘protecting women,’ supporters of the bill simply want to make it as difficult as they can for women seeking abortion and they want to scare physicians away from providing the procedure.

The bill would:

- Mandate every step doctors and medical professionals take when providing abortion care – including the requirement of specific diagnostic tests and prepared speeches to be given to the patient – and reduce the standard of medical care in Missouri;
- Prevent a woman from getting the required counseling from her own private or preferred physician by mandating she meet with “the physician who is to perform or induce the abortion” at least 24 hours before the procedure to conduct the informed consent process. It could also add days or weeks to the wait for the procedure if the physician is only scheduled one day per week. **This is not about safety, this is about politics;**
- Require posting of signs in abortion clinics that carry false promises of state-backed assistance in carrying a child to term and caring for that child once born, including health care, housing, transportation, food, clothing, education, and job training;
- Require the signs to also include the outrageous statement: “The State of Missouri wants you to know that the life of your unborn child began at conception, and that your unborn child has protectable interests in his or her life, health, and well-being;”
- Require abortion providers to use brochures and videos developed by state bureaucrats during the informed consent process rather than information developed by trusted medical organizations like the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology or the American Medical Association

The committee should reject this bill. It does nothing to prevent unintended pregnancies and is designed only to increase the burden on women and providers.

MESSAGE FROM CECILE RICHARDS REGARDING SUPPORT FOR SEBELIUS CONFIRMATION

PPFA, April 23, 2009 [excerpted]

President Obama's nominee for secretary of health and human services, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, is under attack from anti-choice extremists. They want to block her confirmation, and they're doing everything they can to convince their allies in the Senate to play along.

Gov. Sebelius is a leading health policy expert, a popular governor, and a strong advocate for increased health care access. But none of that matters to the radical groups that have decided to protest her nomination. They are dead set on blocking *any* nominee with a history of supporting access to full reproductive health care services — and they're pressuring the Senate to play along.

After eight long years of attacks on women's health care and with more and more families left uninsured, we face a true crisis. Countless women and their families are struggling to afford quality health care during these difficult times, and we can't afford to let anti-choice extremists use their influence in the Senate to block confirmation of Gov. Sebelius.

JUDGE UPHOLDS WORDING FOR MO. ABORTION INITIATIVE

Wednesday, April 22, 2009. By DAVID A. LIEB. Associated Press Writer [Excerpted]

A judge has upheld Secretary of State Robin Carnahan's description of a potential ballot measure barring public funding for abortions and certain kinds of embryonic stem cell research. Carnahan's official ballot summary had been challenged both by the sponsors and the opponents of the proposed constitutional amendment, which is targeted for the 2010 ballot. But Cole County Judge Patricia Joyce shot down their competing claims that the summary either would bias voters against the measure or leave them unaware of its full negative effect. [...]

The secretary of state, by law, is responsible for drafting summaries for ballot initiatives submitted by citizens' groups. [...] Carnahan's summary states the measure would make it illegal for governments to spend money for "abortion services, including those necessary to save the life of the mother, and certain types of stem cell research currently allowed under Missouri law."

Missouri Roundtable for Life claimed the phrase "necessary to save the life of the mother" would bias voters against the ballot measure. Among other things, the group also claimed the reference to "stem cell research currently allowed under Missouri law" was prejudicial compared to its preferred wording of banning funding for "human cloning." The judge's ruling said Missouri law already bans public funding for abortions not necessary to save the life of a woman. Joyce said the initiative would make illegal to spend public money for abortions, even if necessary to save a woman's life. [...]

"This ruling is typical of a tyrannical judiciary in bed with elected officials," said Roundtable for Life Executive Director Todd Jones. "Clearly, this judge believes that Robin Carnahan has dictatorial powers to write whatever summary statement she wants to write without any checks and balances." The organization's president, Ed Martin, said the sponsors have not decided whether to collect petition signatures under Carnahan's summary. He said an appeal is likely. [...]

Planned Parenthood attorney Jennifer Sandman, of New York, asserted the summary should have stated the measure could ban all abortions at publicly funded hospitals and could jeopardize Missouri's Medicaid funding by putting the state in conflict with federal requirements. She said Wednesday that Planned Parenthood also is considering an appeal. [...]

FDA ALLOWS EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION TO BE SOLD OTC TO WOMEN 17 AND OLDER

"Today's announcement by the FDA is a strong statement to American women that their health comes before politics. And that's the way it should be. This decision is commonsense policy that will help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and protect the health and safety of all women.

"The US has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among the most developed countries in the world. Providing birth control, including emergency birth control, to young women helps them make responsible decisions and avoid unintended pregnancy."

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Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care advocate and provider. We believe that everyone has the right to choose when or whether to have a child, and that every child should be wanted and loved. Planned Parenthood affiliates operate nearly 880 health centers nationwide, providing medical services and sexuality education for millions of women, men, and teenagers each year. We also work with allies worldwide to ensure that all women and men have the right and the means to meet their sexual and reproductive health care needs.