



# Monday *MONITOR*

April 30, 2007

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## **HCS HB 1055 TO BE HEARD IN SENATE JUDICIARY MONDAY NIGHT**

Rep. Sander's omnibus anti-abortion/sex mis-education bill is moving quickly to the Senate floor. It will be heard in committee Monday night upon adjournment. This bill – like its companion SB370 et al, which has been debated for several hours already – will:

- ✎ ***Allow public school students to receive medically inaccurate and incomplete information regarding contraception and sexual health***
- ✎ ***Ban Planned Parenthood, hospitals, ob/gyns, nurses, family planning clinics and other trained professionals from providing information and materials in public schools***
- ✎ ***Close two of the remaining three abortion clinics in Missouri***
- ✎ ***Prohibit 'Alternatives to Abortion' grantees from providing family planning counseling or services that could prevent a second unintended pregnancy***

"In addition to omitting important information, abstinence-only curricula rely on messages of fear and shame, inaccurate and misleading information, and biased views of marriage, gender, abortion, and sexual orientation. While the immediate goal of many sexuality education programs is to delay the initiation of sexual intercourse (possibly until marriage) or to increase the use of pregnancy- and disease-prevention methods, many programs also have the long-term goal of promoting sexual health. Because abstinence-only-until-marriage programs are often the only formal setting in which young people learn about sexuality, the information and messages in the curricula can have a life-long impact on how they view sexuality." [www.siecus.org](http://www.siecus.org)

### ***PREGNANCY PREVENTION ??***

*[myths overheard from teens in Missouri schools]*

- ✘ If you squeeze your vaginal muscles really hard the sperm comes back out.
- ✘ There are two levels in the vagina and girls can close off the second level to keep the sperm out.
- ✘ If you sit in a vinegar bath it'll kill the sperm and you won't get pregnant.
- ✘ If you have sex in a pool or hot tub it'll wash the sperm out and you won't get pregnant.
- ✘ If you drink bleach you can cause a miscarriage.

**MISSOURI TEENS NEED AND DESERVE COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION**

## **MISSOURI ABORTION BAN INJUNCTION TO BE LIFTED**

In light of the recent Federal Abortion Ban ruling from the US Supreme Court, the Missouri Abortion Ban – passed in 1999 and enjoined – was remanded back to the 8<sup>th</sup> US Circuit Court of Appeals. The Missouri Attorney General has asked that the injunction be lifted. This lawsuit has been pending before the US Supreme Court since *Carhart v Stenberg* was decided in 2000. Somewhat different from the Federal Abortion Ban, this law carries a 10 years to life criminal sentence for doctors.

## **MEXICO CITY LAWMAKERS VOTE TO LEGALIZE ABORTION; ENACTMENT EXPECTED**

*[Wednesday, Apr. 25 2007 – Excerpts from St. Louis Post-Dispatch]*

MEXICO CITY — Mexico City's liberal legislative assembly passed a controversial law Tuesday night legalizing abortion in a woman's first 12 weeks of pregnancy...The 46-19 vote, with one abstention, will take effect with the expected signing by the city's mayor. The move will dramatically alter the landscape of abortion in Mexico, where most of the 107 million population claims to be Roman Catholic. "It's a huge victory," said Dr. Raffaella Schiavon, the executive director of the women's health advocacy group Ipas Mexico. Supporters of the bill say it will protect the lives of thousands of women who would otherwise undergo risky illegal abortion procedures....

*To the Editor of the New York Times, April 20, 2007:*

**Re "A Sharp Turn for the Supreme Court on Abortion" (letters, April 20):**

I am a rheumatologist caring for a patient whose lupus nephritis is flaring. Her creatinine is rising as her platelet count falls, and she has failed to improve with pulse methylprednisolone and intravenous cyclophosphamide. I am contemplating using rituximab. I would like to refer this case to the United States Supreme Court for its guidance.

Richard Zweig, M.D., Santa Rosa, California

## **A LITTLE LESS LEGAL, A LOT LESS SAFE**

*[Excerpted from Ellen Goodman column, St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Saturday, Apr. 21 2007]*

May I remind you what else was happening on the very day in 2003 when Congress passed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban? In Florida, the Legislature passed a law that gave politicians the power to override Terri Schiavo's wishes and have her feeding tube reinserted. Up and down the East Coast under two Bush administrations — George and Jeb — politicians were playing doctor and God and patient, trumping both medical opinion and individual rights.

May I also remind you of the day President Bush signed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban into law? The photo op had him surrounded by an all-male chorus line of legislators. These men proudly were governing something they never had: a womb....

When President Clinton vetoed the ban, he surrounded himself with women who had been through pregnancies that came with an awful vocabulary: words such as hydrocephalus and polyhydramnios. Those women and their obstetricians and gynecologists asked only for an exception for serious health risks.

In 2000, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to strike down a Nebraska law because it didn't have such a health exception. In 2003, Congress passed the law directly confronting that ruling. And on Wednesday, a new Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to uphold the ban, proving what a difference the turnover in a justice or two can make...

In an opinion tortured by an attempt to deny he was overturning a precedent, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that because only a small minority of women seeking abortions would be affected and since there was another possible procedure, the ban was constitutional.

Writing for the majority, Kennedy said it was fine for the politicians to make medical decisions, fine to eliminate health exceptions, fine to overturn precedent. He even pretended to leave the door ajar for individual suits by women in the midst of a pregnancy crisis. From where? Her hospital bed? Her gurney?

...How many times must it be said that those who support a woman's right to decide want abortion to be safe, legal and rare? Now, women whose pregnancies come with alarming words and dangerous diagnoses live in a world that is a little less legal and a lot less safe.