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### **Extremist Groups Take to the Ballot**

Yesterday, a national group attempting to change thousands of Missouri laws was given the green light to gather petitions to put a constitutional change on the November 2010 ballot. Missouri is one of at least 10 targeted states for "Personhood USA's" effort to re-define "person" starting at the beginning of biological development, which includes fertilized eggs. If this initiative were to pass it would ban birth control and infertility treatments along with banning abortions even in cases of life endangerment, rape and incest.

A similar effort (amendment 48) was soundly defeated by 73% of the voters in Colorado in 2008.

Another group's anti-choice petition was also approved for circulation this week. The measure, sponsored by the Missouri Roundtable for Life, attempts to ban abortions in public hospitals even when a woman's life is in danger or in cases of rape and incest.

Statement from:

Peter Brownlie, CEO, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri

Paula Gianino, CEO, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri

Tonia Stubblefield, CEO, Tri Rivers Planned Parenthood

Gregory Thompson's measure would change our constitution to expand thousands of laws including tax, criminal and property laws, in unforeseen ways, and inevitably clog up our court system with 100's of lawsuits on the backs of Missouri taxpayers. This measure is extreme, it redefines "person" in such a way that may force the government to ban many common and life-saving medical treatments, including

- Commonly used forms of hormonal birth control, (used by 95% of women at sometime in their life)
- Treatments for cancer, life-threatening pregnancies and infertility,
- Abortion even in cases of rape, incest or when a woman's life is in danger

If passed, this measure would allow **extensive government interference** in the doctor-patient relationship and will eliminate a woman's right to make personal, private decisions about her health.

The funding ban measure would change our constitution in an attempt to ban abortions in public hospitals even when a woman's life is at risk or in cases of rape and incest. In addition, this measure would jeopardize federal Medicaid funding by preventing Missouri from following the federal Medicaid rules protecting women who are survivors of rape and incest.

Planned Parenthood will continue to fight against measure like these because we believe that the best ways to reduce abortions is through reducing unintended pregnancies thought access to family planning services and comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education.

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*Planned Parenthood affiliates in Missouri serve more than 71,000 women, men and teens annually with education, family planning, and disease testing and prevention services.*

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