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## **Anti-Choice Lobby Kills Family Friendly Cancer Prevention Bill & Their Own Abortion Restriction Bill**

**Jefferson City, MO** – Today, the Missouri Legislature adjourned without adopting key health care legislation nor did they pass the much debated abortion restriction bill. The extremist wing of the anti-choice lobby defeated their own abortion restriction proposal after Senators negotiated a compromise.

In a shameful and blatant show of political gamesmanship, the anti-choice lobby attached an anti-Planned Parenthood amendment to a bill that would provide information to the parents of 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls about the HPV vaccine which prevents cervical cancer. This 11<sup>th</sup> hour move caused the bill to die.

With both the HPV and abortion restriction bills, legislators negotiated in good faith and thought agreements had been made only for those agreements to be abandoned by the extremists within the anti-choice lobby.

We urge legislators to put politics aside and focus on proven methods to improve the health of all Missourians. Before reconsidering additional informed consent requirements, the Missouri legislature should look to a new report finding that in-person counseling requirements cause unnecessary delays and, as a result, push abortion later in pregnancy. ([Gutmacher Institute](#))

The failed bill would have required health care providers to post signs and provide materials containing false information. As a healthcare provider, we know how important the decision making process is for every woman. Planned Parenthood provides every one of our patients with accurate, trusted information so a woman can make the best decisions based on her unique circumstances, whether her decision is raising the child, adoption, or abortion.

As the nation's leading advocate and provider of reproductive health services, Planned Parenthood knows that comprehensive sex education and birth control are the best tools for preventing unintended pregnancy and reducing the need for abortion.

Today there are more than 815,000 uninsured Missourians including at least 146,150 uninsured children. [*St. Louis Post Dispatch* & Kaiser Family Foundation] Missouri ranks among the top 15 states for sexually transmitted diseases – with Missouri's largest cities – Kansas City and St. Louis – leading the country in Chlamydia and Gonorrhea rates. [CDC] The Legislature's continued obsession with creating additional burdens, while ignoring programs and services aimed at prevention, is having a devastating impact on the lives and health of women, teen girls and families.

Meanwhile the following 10 prevention bills died while the legislature focused on abortion restrictions: SB 104 Cervical Cancer Immunization, SB 260/HB 520 Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies, HB 413 Cancer Screening Coverage, SB 316 Comprehensive Sex Education, SB 329 Prevention First Act, HB 342 Prostate Research Development, HB 370 Expedited Partner Therapy, HB 430 Uterine Fibroids Information, SB 203/HB 584 Patient Protection at Pharmacies.

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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.*

[www.ppmissouri.org](http://www.ppmissouri.org)

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