

Anti-Freedom of Choice Act Resolution Fact Sheet SCR11 (Bartle), HR212 (Davis), HR294 (Dixon)

What the Freedom of Choice Act is:

- In 1973, the US Supreme Court ruled in Roe v. Wade that a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion is protected under the U.S. Constitution's right to privacy. While the Court has held that the government may not place improper restrictions on this right, the decision **did not** establish "abortion on demand through the ninth month of pregnancy," as the proponents of these resolutions claim.
- The Freedom of Choice Act, which has not been reintroduced in Congress, seeks to codify the rights outlined in the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision to protect a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy, as well as her right to bear children.

What these Resolutions do:

- These resolutions seek to send a 'strongly worded message' from the General Assembly to the President and U.S. Congress that anti-choice, anti-family planning legislators in Missouri oppose attempts to protect a woman's right to choose—even if her life or health is in danger.
- The resolutions' claims that all laws regulating abortion would be overturned is false and serves only to inflame the already divisive debate over legal abortion at a time when the country is looking to a different kind of politics—that of transparency, honesty, and civil debate.

What the General Assembly should be doing:

- The proponents of these resolutions are not really interested in reducing the number of unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion. If they were, they would not be focusing on a piece of federal legislation that has not even been introduced this year.
- Stop playing politics with women's lives and health—focus on the health care crisis in this country. 45.7 million Americans lack health insurance, more than 17 million women in the U.S. are in need of publicly funded family planning services, and the need for affordable, high quality health care continues to grow as more and more families face economic struggles.
- If the proponents of these resolutions were interested in reducing abortion, they would support common-sense measures like ensuring access to family planning services and promoting abstinence-based comprehensive sex education.
- **It is our hope that every member who has signed one of these resolutions will also sign on to the 2009 Missouri Prevention First Act.**