



Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, February 2, 2009

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THIRD ANTI-FOCA RESOLUTION FILED

Reminiscent of the 2006 election-year rush to file four total abortion ban bills, **Rep. Bob Dixon** (R-Springfield) has filed a third Anti-FOCA Resolution, **HR294**. According to KY3 in Springfield, this resolution has 110 co-sponsors though the list is not available online. The Freedom of Choice Act, which has not yet been introduced in the 111th Congress, seeks to codify the rights outlined in the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion and seeks to protect a woman's right to bear children. 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 resolutions' claims that all Missouri laws regulating abortion would immediately 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, civil debate, and working towards solutions.

RESTRICTIVE AND HEALTH-PROMOTING BILLS FILED TO DATE:

Restrictive and harmful:

- HB46 (Davis), HB434 (Pratt), SB264 (Mayer): 2009 Abortion Restriction Bill
- HB226 (Emery): Pharmacy Denial
- HR212 (Davis), SCR11 (Bartle), HR294 (Dixon): Anti-FOCA Resolutions

Pro-active and health promoting:

- HB339 (El-Amin), SB250 (Smith): Stop HIV/AIDS in Prison Act
- HB342 (El-Amin): Prostate Research Development
- HB370 (Storch): Expedited Partner Therapy
- HB413 (Low): Cancer Screening Coverage
- HB430 (Hoskins): Uterine Fibroids Information and Awareness
- SB104 (Justus): Cervical Cancer Immunization
- SB144 (Wright Jones): Prostate Cancer Prevention
- SB203 (Justus): Patient Protection at Pharmacies
- SB260 (Wright Jones), HB520 (Mott Oxford): Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies

2009 PREVENTION FIRST ACT

This year's PFA—sponsored by **Sen. Bray** and **Rep. Low**—continues to gather co-sponsors who understand and support the need for common sense prevention programs in Missouri. The bill includes:

- Comprehensive, Abstinence-Based Sex Education
- Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies
- Birth Control Protection
- Family Planning Services for Low-Income Women
- Patient Protection at Pharmacies
- Expedited Partner STI Therapy

Planned Parenthood and prevention supporters from across the state will gather in the Capitol on Tuesday to deliver thousands of petitions in support of PFA, and to seek additional co-sponsors.

While anti-abortion/anti-choice Missouri legislators seek to send a 'strong message' to Congress with the anti-FOCA resolutions, they continue to ignore common-sense prevention bills that could actually reduce abortions: access to family planning services, and 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.

WHY CONTRACEPTION SAVES MONEY AND PREVENTS ABORTION: A Doctor's Take on the Stimulus Package. Huffington Post: January 30, 2009, Dr. Peter Klatsky...[excerpted]

One cannot help but wonder whether congressional Republicans actually want to maintain the current rates of abortion, teen pregnancy, unnecessary public spending, or decreased productivity. Their policy on contraception suggests that they do. House Republicans dogmatically refused to vote for any stimulus program that permitted states to fund contraception for Medicaid eligible citizens and those living off incomes just above the poverty level. This policy will lead to more unplanned pregnancies (with the associated abortions) and will block billions of dollars in savings.

To understand how this works, it is helpful to look at California's experience with a state-funded contraception and family planning initiative for women with incomes between 100% and 200% of the poverty level. Four years after implementing the program, California saved an estimated \$500 million in public health care spending, net of what they spent on the program itself. In fact, for every dollar invested in the program, the state of California saved an estimated \$5.33, for every dollar spent, over a period of five years. These are conservative estimates that do not include money saved through increased productivity and cost savings from reductions in paid medical leave and sick days that result from unplanned pregnancies. Few other public spending plans can boast such a positive return on investment.

While I respect the opinions of those who oppose abortion, I do not understand why those same leaders would oppose policies proven to reduce abortions [...] A proven path to fewer abortions and marked reductions in federal spending, what is a conservative not to like? Perhaps it is the mistaken belief that the availability of contraceptive access will increase premarital sexual activity. This belief simply fails to stand up to the evidence.

In 2002, the Department of Health and Human Services (under Republican Secretary Tommy Thompson), released a report documenting an increase in contraceptive use with a decrease in sexual activity between 1995 and 2002. Supplying contraceptives and educating adolescents about sex during the late 1990s did not increase their likelihood to engage in sexual activities; it did keep them from getting pregnant. Even supplying emergency contraception to adolescents, prior to sexual activity, has been proven not to affect sexual behaviors.

[...] President Obama requested that the contraceptive waiver [...] be removed from the stimulus package. While I appreciate the President's attempt to find a bipartisan compromise and show goodwill, only evidence-based health policies should be supported. Access to contraception is proven to decrease unintended pregnancies, abortions, and reduce overall health expenditures. [...]

OBAMA'S OTHER FAMILY-PLANNING MOVE

By Steve Benen, Washington Monthly, Posted January 25, 2009; Printed January 27, 2009 [excerpted]

President Obama's decision to [repeal the global gag rule](#) ("Mexico City Policy") will make a huge difference in the lives of countless families around the world [...] In a related move, Obama also said he would restore funding to the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA). Both he and Clinton had pledged to reverse a Bush administration determination that assistance to the organization violated U.S. law known as the Kemp-Kasten amendment.

Obama, in his statement, said [...] "By resuming funding to UNFPA, the U.S. will be joining 180 other donor nations working collaboratively to reduce poverty, improve the health of women and children, prevent HIV/AIDS and provide family planning assistance to women in 154 countries." Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, executive director of the UNFPA, said: "The president's actions send a strong message about his leadership and his desire to support causes that will promote peace and dignity, equality for women and girls and economic development in the poorest regions of the world." Indeed, it does more than just send a message; by restoring UNFPA funding, Obama is poised to save some lives.

This never should have been controversial. In Bush's first term, the former president intended to maintain UNFPA funding at Clinton-era levels [...] And then, some right-wing activists with the Bush administration's ear, starting complaining bitterly. [...] the Fund has won widespread recognition for its work in improving the lives of women in developing countries, but for far-right leaders, most notably in the religious right, UNFPA is a pro-abortion enterprise that supports China's one-child policy.

Bush put a hold on the money he'd already requested and received, so he could investigate UNFPA's work in China. When international investigators and a U.S. team found "no evidence that UNFPA has knowingly supported or participated in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization" in China, Bush [suppressed the findings and blocked the funding anyway](#). It's a callous, twisted position he maintained for the rest of his terms in office. Because of Bush's actions on UNFPA, fewer women in developing countries received pre-natal care, fewer doctors were trained to deal with pregnancy complications, fewer HIV prevention programs could operate, and less medical equipment was made available to expectant mothers.

Obama is going to make this right.