



Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, February 23, 2009

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PRO-ACTIVE HPV AND PROSTATE BILLS APPROVED IN SENATE COMMITTEE

SCS/SB104—Cervical Cancer Immunization (Justus, D-Kansas City) and **SCS/SB144—Prostate Cancer Prevention (Wright-Jones, D-St. Louis)** were voted 'do pass' this week in Senate Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families Committee. SCS/SB104 is on the Senate calendar for perfection. Both bills seek to promote prevention of certain highly prevalent cancers through greater awareness, education, detection, or immunization. During the hearing, nobody spoke in opposition to SB144 and only one person spoke in opposition to SB104 (*SB144 was approved unanimously and SB104 received just one 'no' vote, from Sen. Jane Cunningham*). A lobbyist for Concerned Women for America spoke—'on principle'—against the HPV vaccine that immunizes young girls and women against cervical cancer. She stated "we can't perpetuate the idea that science will keep up with sexual behavior." She went on to note, incorrectly, that in 1940 there were only two STD's and both were treatable; now there are hundreds. She concluded that if science continues to advance technology around STI's then people will think it is o.k. to have sex...

"IN MY COUNTRY, ABORTION IS LEGAL"

Rep. Jill Schupp (D-Creve Coeur)—in offering an amendment in committee to the burdensome and unnecessary **Abortion Restriction Bill HCS HB46 & HB434 (Davis/Pratt)**—was obliged to make clear to anti-abortion committee members that abortion remains, in fact, legal in Missouri and the United States of America. During the executive session on the bill, Rep. Cynthia Davis (R-O'Fallon) the sponsor of the bill and chair of the committee ran roughshod over the process, misleading committee members by suggesting that the two bills were '99% similar' and needed only 'minor tweaking' to create the substitute, and forcing the bill to a vote when members had not had the chance to offer amendments. Rep. Davis told the committee she would take a vote on the bill at 9:30am (effectively limiting discussion to only 30 minutes), was unprepared to make a motion, ignored a point of order offered by a Democratic member, and shut off debate with amendments still on the table. Her response to the rebuffed members was 'you can offer all of your amendments on the floor...' The committee process is established specifically to allow for full and robust discussion and debate of bills in a small group so that the best public policy can be presented to the full House for perfection and passage. It would seem that in Cynthia Davis' committee, discussion and debate is unnecessary window dressing.

HEARINGS MONDAY NIGHT AND TUESDAY NOON

On Monday night at 6:00pm, **SB264 Mayer (R-Dexter)** the **2009 Abortion Restriction Bill** is the last of 5 bills scheduled to be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill is similar to HB46 & 434 that was voted 'Do Pass' in Rep. Davis committee (see story above). Sen. Mayer carried this bill last year and worked with pro-choice members of the Senate to remove unnecessary and misleading portions of the bill. Far from protecting women, or reducing abortions in Missouri, this bill makes it harder for all women, removes the ability for women to consent for themselves, and would criminalize physicians who perform abortions. On Tuesday, upon morning adjournment, **SCR11 (Bartle, R-Lee's Summit)**—another **anti-FOCA Resolution**—will be heard in Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee.

Both hearings will be in the Senate Lounge.

THE TIME ARTICLE ON THE REVERSE IS MANDATORY READING FOR SENATE RULES MEMBERS

STILL TIME FOR ANTI-FOCA RESOLUTION SUPPORTERS TO SIGN ON TO PFA

Members who voted for the anti-FOCA resolution still have time to demonstrate that if they oppose women obtaining safe and legal abortions in Missouri, they should at the very least help them prevent unintended pregnancies. Representative Beth Low will file the bill soon, but is still open to more co-sponsors. The Prevention First Act offers common sense programs and policies that will safely reduce abortions.

OTHER SOURCES AFFIRM: MISSOURI LEGISLATURE HAS THE WRONG PRIORITIES

THE CATHOLIC CRUSADE AGAINST A MYTHICAL ABORTION BILL

Amy Sullivan / Washington. TIME Magazine: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009 [EXCERPTED]

The U.S. Catholic Church's crusade against the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) has all the hallmarks of a well-oiled lobbying campaign. A national postcard campaign is flooding the White House and congressional offices with messages opposing FOCA, and Catholic bishops have made defeating the abortion rights legislation a top priority. In the most recent effort to stop the bill, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia sent a letter to every member of Congress imploring them to "please oppose FOCA."

There is only one hitch. Congress isn't about to pass the Freedom of Choice Act — because no such bill has been introduced in the current Congress.

At a time when the United States is gripped by economic uncertainty and faces serious challenges in hot spots around the globe, some American Catholics are finding it both curious and troubling that [their church](#) has launched a major campaign against a piece of legislation that doesn't exist and wouldn't have much chance of becoming law even if it did. To many critics, it feels like the legislative equivalent of the dog that didn't bark. [...]

[...] Catholic News Service — the official news agency affiliated with the USCCB — ran an article that began, "Internet rumors to the contrary, no Catholic hospital in the United States is in danger of closing because of the Freedom of Choice Act." Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, told the news agency that the legislation "has never contained anything that would force Catholic hospitals or Catholic personnel to do abortions or to participate in them." [...]

For full article, go to: <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1880451,00.html>

This article is mandatory reading for House members who voted for the anti-FOCA Resolution.

LEGISLATURE FIDDLING AS MISSOURI STAGGERS

Editorial Board, St. Louis Post Dispatch, 02.17.2009 [EXCERPTED]

[...] The year's legislative session features the same old pettiness, inflated egos, narrow minds and kowtowing to special interests that have become a tradition.

- Legislators and lobbyists wander the halls, talking about special-interest bills. [...]
- **The House burned up a couple of days debating a resolution opposing a law that Congress hasn't even taken up.** In the course of that debate, which concerns restricting state rules on abortion, Rep. Bryan Stevenson, R-Webb City, inveighed against the "War of Northern Aggression." He later apologized, saying he had no idea that was what slavery supporters called the Civil War.
- State Sen. Scott Rupp, R-Wentzville, led a weeklong war against Gov. Jay Nixon's appointment of St. Louis lawyer Linda Martinez [...] But it turned out only that his feelings were hurt [...] "I'm feeling majorly, majorly slighted," Mr. Rupp said.
- [Rep. Ron] Richard refused to appoint Rep. Jeanette Mott Oxford, D-St. Louis, to the House Committee on Children and Families, despite her outstanding record on children's issues. [...]

[...] Missouri is being majorly, majorly slighted.

LEGISLATORS DEBATE MEANINGLESS RESOLUTION AS MISSOURIANS SUFFER

Tuesday, Feb. 17 2009. St. Louis Post Dispatch, Letter to the Editor [EXCERPTED]

The National Council of Jewish Women in Missouri is curious about why the Post-Dispatch has not covered what really is going on in Jefferson City. [...] We are referring to the amount of time the Missouri House spent debating a resolution on the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which does nothing to address the growing challenges of joblessness and lack of health care in our state.

Fifteen members of the NCJW went to Jefferson City to advocate for expansion of health care, [...] the Earned Income Tax Credit and [...] a bill to reinstate comprehensive sex education in our public schools. We heard our legislators on the House floor in full debate of a nonbinding resolution to express dislike of FOCA, a bill that has not even been introduced in Congress. That the Legislature chose to spend time on this resolution when Missouri faces a \$300 million budget deficit and when close to 800,000 Missourians lack health insurance is an insult to Missourians who look to our state government to deal with real problems [...]

As an advocacy and community service organization, NCJW knows that non-profit groups cannot meet the growing needs of our citizens. [...] But while NCJW struggles to meet these growing needs, our state government is debating abortion again. NCJW wonders if Missourians would be as outraged as we were if they really knew what was happening in Jefferson City.

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