

2009 Abortion Restriction Bill
[HB 434](#) (Pratt) and [SB 264](#) (Mayer)

FACT SHEET

HB 434 (Pratt) and SB 264 (Mayer) contain many new, burdensome, and unnecessary requirements to the informed consent procedure for abortion and creates the new crime of “coercing an abortion.” These bills intrude on the doctor/patient relationship and ignore the standard practice of medical care already in place for abortion providers. Under the superficial guise of ‘protecting women,’ the sponsors and supporters of these bills are clear in their intent; they want to make it as difficult as they can for women seeking abortion care and they want to scare physicians away from providing the procedure. *This bill is too extreme for Missouri and does nothing to reduce unintended pregnancy.*

These bills would:

- Prevent a woman from getting the required counseling from her own private or preferred physician by mandating she meet with "the physician who is to perform or induce the abortion" at least 24 hours before the procedure to conduct the informed consent process. This is a change from the current law in which "a treating physician" can conduct the informed consent process. It could also add days or weeks to the wait for the procedure if the physician is only scheduled one day per week. **This is not about safety, this is about politics;**
- Require abortion providers to use brochures and videos developed by state bureaucrats during the informed consent process rather than information developed by trusted medical organizations like the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology or the American Medical Association;
- Create the new crime of 'coercion of an abortion' whether or not the woman actually seeks and obtains an abortion;
- Require posting of signs in abortion clinics that carry false promises of state-backed assistance in carrying a child to term and caring for that child once born, including health care, housing, transportation, food, clothing, education, and job training;

Background & Impact:

Abortion is already the most highly regulated medical procedure in Missouri. Under current state law, any woman seeking an abortion must go through counseling and sign a consent form stating that her decision is completely free and voluntary and then wait at least 24 hours before having the procedure. Current law also includes:

- A ban on state funding for abortion.
- A ban on public facilities or employees being used in the performance of abortions.
- A prohibition on insurance companies offering abortion coverage as part of their regular benefits package.
- A requirement that minors have written parental consent before having an abortion.

HB 434 and SB 264 seek only to place more unnecessary burdens on abortion providers and women seeking abortion and does nothing to actually prevent unintended pregnancy.