



Monday *MONITOR*

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GOV. BLUNT ANNOUNCES ON ANNIVERSARY OF ROE THAT HE WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

While this was interesting and welcome news on the day pro-choice advocates celebrate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we do not share in his delight at his 'mission accomplished' where healthcare is concerned. Under his watch, and with his support, Governor Blunt has:

- Refused to fund the successful state Family Planning Program that provided services to 30,000 women;
- Eliminated 19-year contracts with Planned Parenthood health centers in Springfield and Joplin for breast and cervical cancer screening services;
- Cut healthcare for more than 100,000 Missourians—many of them women and children;
- Promoted ineffective and harmful abstinence-only education for public school students, denying teens information about contraception;
- Supported protecting pharmacists who deny women birth control;
- Diverted thousands of taxpayer dollars to crisis pregnancy centers that mislead women, lie about birth control, and use scare tactics regarding abortion;
- Continued to increase funding to the Alternatives to Abortion program that explicitly may not fund family planning services—the very best 'alternative to abortion' services;
- Established a sham task force to study abortion made up entirely of individuals who are 100% opposed to both abortion and contraception.

In three short years, Matt Blunt has undone years of hard won improvements to women's health and set back the healthcare of hundreds of thousands of Missourians. But this was not done single-handedly. And, while we are pleased he will no longer be in a position to endanger women and teens, the legislative leadership that helped achieve these goals remains in place. We sincerely hope this leadership will now choose to value prevention and wellness and join with us to Put Prevention First.

NEW BILLS FILED

HCR12—Rep. Lampe (D-138): Promoting the Use of Contraception. The resolution underscores the benefits of contraception to preventing unintended pregnancy and promotes better access to and information about FDA-approved contraception.

HB1795—Rep. Pollock (R-146): Criminalizing Pregnancy in Female Addicts. This bill continues the trend of bills filed this year that would criminalize addiction for pregnant women and ignores the sound public health statutes on the books that promote treatment and pre-natal care which improve birth outcomes.

HB1720—Rep. Talbot (D-37): Patient Protection. This bill seeks to clarify the duty of pharmacies to fill all lawful prescriptions and to make sure that persons of legal age purchasing emergency contraception over-the-counter are served as they would be for any other OTC medicine.

ROE EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE DRAW HUNDREDS OF SUPPORTERS AND ADVOCATES

From St. Louis to Rolla to Kirksville to Columbia & Springfield, more than 1100 supporters and advocates for legal abortion gathered in recognition of anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. Interestingly, the day was also marked by two newflashes: Governor Blunt announced his intention not to run for a second term (see above), and Roe v. Crawford was decided by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals (see over).

There remains one more opportunity to join like-minded advocates to celebrate Roe:

Kansas City: Tuesday, January 29, 6:00—9:00pm at Unity Temple on the Plaza. **Chili For Choice**—a night of spoken word poetry, music and chili. Victoria at 913-312-5100 ext 257 or victoria.pickering@ppkm.org

SAVE THE DATES:

Planned Parenthood Day of Action—Tuesday, February 12, 2008—Jefferson City
Lobby for Women's Health and Lives—Tuesday, March 4, 2008—Jefferson City

GOV. NAPOLITANO MAKES ARIZONA 16TH STATE TO REJECT ABSTINENCE-ONLY FUNDING

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano said the state will reject federal funding for abstinence-only programs and will only accept money that can be used to provide sex education, contraceptives and sexually transmitted disease screenings for community college students, reports the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (azstarnet.com, 1/24).

"While we all support 'abstinence only' and don't believe, in particular, teenagers ought to be engaging in sexual relations of that sort, the fact of the matter is, some do," said Napolitano. "They need to have complete information for their own health, for their own bodies." The governor said she has accepted federal funds to support abstinence-only education in the past "to see whether it worked"; however, she cited recent studies revealing abstinence-only programs did not stop youth from having sex.

The Daily Star reports Napolitano wrote a letter to federal health officials rejecting future funds, saying she would only accept money that "strongly promotes abstinence" if it can also be used for "a curriculum that provides comprehensive and medically accurate sexuality education."

MISSOURI MUST TRANSPORT INMATES TO ABORTION CLINICS

Jim Salter, Associated Press—Kansas City Star—January 22, 2008

The state of Missouri must provide transportation to clinics for inmates who want to have an abortion, a federal appeals panel ruled Tuesday. In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the state had to allow a specific inmate, listed as Jane Roe, to have an abortion after the state tried to end the practice of driving prisoners to clinics for elective abortions. The American Civil Liberties Union then sought a federal ruling making the high court's decision a class-action on behalf of all imprisoned pregnant women in the state.

U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple ruled in 2006 that the state must allow pregnant inmates to have abortions and take them to facilities that perform the procedure. Tuesday's decision by the three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the lower court ruling. "The court recognized that the right to elect to have an abortion survives incarceration," said Tony Rothert, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union's St. Louis office. "This was about providing women with the opportunity to exercise their choice even though they were incarcerated."

It wasn't clear whether the state would appeal. A spokesman for Attorney General Jay Nixon said the decision was still being reviewed with the Corrections Department. Gov. Matt Blunt called the ruling disappointing and noted that Missouri law prohibits the use of state tax money to pay for abortions. "Over the last three years, we have made positive changes in Missouri and enacted laws that reflect our profound respect for the inherent dignity of each and every life," Blunt said. "I am hopeful and prayerful that we can further protect life by enhancing our laws to defend the dignity of human life." The ruling came on the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which established a nationwide right to abortion.

At a hearing in September, attorneys for the state argued security concerns and the state's limited resources outweighed a female offender's right to an abortion. Inmates are denied certain freedoms, including "the right to procreate, vote and travel," Assistant Attorney General Michael Pritchett told the panel at the time.

But the ACLU said the state exaggerated its security concerns and has shown an ability to safely transport inmates to an abortion clinic in St. Louis despite the presence of protesters. Since July 2005, seven Missouri inmates have had abortions, Corrections Department spokesman Brian Hauswirth said. All were elective procedures.

JUDGE SAYS MISSOURI MUST ISSUE LICENSE PLATE WITH 'CHOOSE LIFE' MESSAGE

Mark Morris—Kansas City Star—January 24, 2008

The state of Missouri must issue a specialty license plate bearing the message of an anti-abortion group, a federal judge in Kansas City ruled Wednesday. Choose Life of Missouri Inc. sued the state in June 2006 after its application for a specialty plate, bearing the message "Choose Life," was denied. The organization said it would use money raised by the plates to fund pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes and adoption agencies. "We are very pleased and very excited that the judge upheld our client's First Amendment right," said Joel Oster, a Kansas lawyer representing the group. "We believe the pro-life message is very important and adopting children is a message everybody should be able to agree with." John Fougere, a spokesman for the Missouri attorney general's office, said lawyers there had not yet decided whether to appeal.

Senior U.S. District Judge Scott Wright also declared unconstitutional the portion of Missouri law that allowed the application to be denied. Wright found the law vague and lacking safeguards that would protect applicants from state officials discriminating against their viewpoints. In Missouri, applications for specialty plates are reviewed by a committee of seven senators, seven representatives and three nonvoting state officials. The group's application failed when two senators who support abortion rights sent a letter to the committee opposing the Choose Life application.