



Monday *MONITOR*

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“Free and fair discussion will ever be found the firmest friend to truth”

motto carved in marble behind Senate dais.

SENATE PREPARES TO JETTISON TRADITION AND “PQ” ANTI-ABORTION SEX MIS-EDUCATION BILL

In the final week of session, Senate leadership is preparing to use the seldom invoked parliamentary maneuver – “moving the previous question” (PQ) – to shut off democratic debate on **HCS HB1055** (Scott-R), the Omnibus Anti-Abortion/Sex Mis-Education bill. This bill contains provisions that will have serious implications for women and teens in Missouri – so serious that Senators want the opportunity to conduct full, free and fair democratic debate on the bill – for as long as it may take.

This bill will:

- Shut down abortion services in Kansas City and Columbia, leaving St. Louis as the only city in the state where a woman may obtain an abortion
- Restrict family planning referrals that could improve maternal and child health outcomes
- Fund crisis pregnancy centers that intimidate women considering abortion
- Limit what teens learn about contraception to only failure rates
- Ban Planned Parenthood – and most hospitals, family planning clinics, ob/gyn physicians, and nurses – from teaching sex education or distributing information in public schools

These are serious issues that deserve full and serious debate. ***Senate leadership should NOT descend to the bully tactic of the PQ.***

BIASED COUNSELING BILL DEBATED & LAID OVER

HB821 (Onder), was debated last Monday on the House floor and laid over. This is a dangerous biased counseling bill that would encourage women terminating a wanted pregnancy due to a devastating fetal anomaly to submit to an experimental anesthetic procedure. Physicians would be required to read, and patients sign, a statement prepared by legislators that includes medically unsubstantiated information. This unethical bill's main intent has always been to allow for floor debate so anti-abortion legislators can message to their base. This same bill was rejected in the Senate last month as an amendment to SB 370 et al.

HPV VACCINE BILL DEBATED IN HOUSE & LAID OVER; AMENDED TO SB577

HB802 (Page) was given floor time Monday night for debate, but laid over. On Tuesday, it was amended on to **SB577**, the NOHealthNet bill, in committee, however the House stripped the provision from the bill on Friday by a vote of 74-72. Recent studies have confirmed that this vaccination is most effective if obtained prior to onset of sexual activity. The human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most commonly transmitted sexual disease in the United States. Virtually all cases of cervical cancer are linked to HPV, an extremely common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that typically shows no symptoms; most people never know they are infected, and most cases resolve on their own. According to the CDC, approximately 6.2 million new genital HPV transmissions occur each year. An estimated 80% of all sexually active females will acquire HPV by 50 years of age.

STUDY FINDS ADOLESCENTS WHO USE CONDOMS ARE NOT MORE PROMISCUOUS

The New York Times (5/8, F6, Bakalar) reports, "A new study has found that **adolescents who use condoms the first time they have intercourse do not go on to have more sexual partners than others**, and that they have lower rates of sexually transmitted diseases than those who do not use condoms the first time." The researchers of the study, which will appear in the June issue of The American Journal of Public Health, "studied a sample of 4,018 teenagers, all of whom completed three interviews about their sexual behavior over a period of six to eight years. All had had sexual intercourse by the second year of the study. ... Almost 62 percent of the teenagers used a condom the first time they had sex." And, "those who used condoms and those who did not had an average of five partners. But those who used a condom at their sexual debut were only half as likely to have a sexually transmitted disease seven years later."

HPV VACCINE MOST EFFECTIVE IF ADMINISTERED PRIOR TO ONSET OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY USA Today, (05.10.2007).

An international study of the human papillomavirus vaccine Gardasil found it was **effective in women who had not already been infected with cervical cancer-causing HPV types targeted by the immunization**. However, it was less effective for women who had previous HPV infection. Gardasil, approved for females ages 9-26, protects against HPV types 16 and 18, which are thought to cause 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases. It also targets strains of the STD that are responsible for 90 percent of genital wart cases.

The three-year study of more than 12,000 women ages 15-26 found the vaccine was not as effective for women who had been infected with HPV types 16 and 18. Because HPV is the most common STD in the United States, that finding suggests Gardasil may be of less benefit to women who are already sexually active.

"Just like any vaccine, it's not going to be effective in people who already have the disease," said Kevin Ault, an Emory University School of Medicine obstetrician/gynecologist.

The study, "Quadrivalent Vaccine against Human Papillomavirus to Prevent High-Grade Cervical Lesions," was published in the New England Journal of Medicine (2007;356(19):1915-1927).

WHY TEENS NEED & DESERVE MEDICALLY ACCURATE SEX EDUCATION

Washington Post, (05.10.2007).

A new study is the first to definitely establish the **link between the STD human papillomavirus and oral cancer**. "It makes it absolutely clear that oral HPV infection is a risk factor," said Maura L. Gillison, an assistant professor of oncology and epidemiology and Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions and the study's leader.

Gillison and colleagues studied 100 people with oropharyngeal cancer, cancer of the tonsils and surrounding tissue, and 200 similar subjects without it. They found that those infected with HPV were 32 times as likely to develop one form of oral cancer compared with those without HPV.

Experts say the findings could help explain why oral cancer rates have been rising in recent years, especially among younger people who are not smokers or heavy drinkers - traditionally the most at-risk groups. "There's been a kind of sea change in the last 10 years in who we're seeing with these cancers," said Gillison.

"Many adolescents, and adults too, say they engage in oral sex as a less risky type of sex," said Mark A. Schuster of the University of California-Los Angeles and Rand Corp. "What this article and others show is you absolutely can get serious [STDs] through oral sex."

The type of oropharyngeal cancer associated with HPV affects about 11,000 Americans each year.

The study, "Case-Control Study of Human Papillomavirus and Oropharyngeal Cancer," was published in the New England Journal of Medicine (2007;356(19):1944-1956).