



Monday *MONITOR*

Monday May 4, 2009

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HCS HB46 & 434 HAS SPEEDY, TWO MINUTE SENATE JUDICIARY HEARING: APPROVED 5:2

The House version of the **2009 Abortion Restriction Bill** sponsored by **Reps. Cynthia Davis (R-O'Fallon) and Bryan Pratt (R-Blue Springs)** was heard in Senate Judiciary Committee for a full two minutes last Monday night; it was approved forthwith on a 5:2 party line vote. The bill was turned in on Thursday and will be on the Senate calendar on Monday. Both the House and Senate versions of the bill will be on the calendar and the Senate bill has already received 5.5 hours of debate. Both bills intrude on the doctor/patient relationship, ignore the standard practice of medical care already in place for abortion providers, and:

- Single out doctors and medical professionals that provide abortion care and mandate that they wade through an extensive unnecessary bureaucratic maze prior to performing an abortion;
- Mandate every step doctors and medical professionals take when providing abortion care – including the requirement of specific diagnostic tests and prepared speeches to be given to the patient – and reduce the standard of medical care in Missouri;
- 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. 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 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;
- Require the signs to also include the outrageous statement: "The State of Missouri wants you to know that the life of your unborn child began at conception, and that your unborn child has protectable interests in his or her life, health, and well-being";
- Prohibit the woman from consenting to an abortion as the "victim of a coerced abortion" **even if the woman has freely consented and believes this is the best decision for herself based upon her circumstances.**

SB104—CERVICAL CANCER IMMUNIZATION BILL APPROVED IN HEALTHCARE POLICY COMMITTEE

This pro-active, prevention bill, sponsored by **Sen. Jolie Justus (D-Kansas City)**, mandates that MO-DHSS send information to the parents or guardians of all females entering the 6th grade about the connection between HPV and cervical cancer and the availability of the HPV vaccine. This bill does not require the vaccine for admission to school. SB104 seeks to promote prevention of certain highly prevalent cancers through greater awareness, education, detection, or immunization. In a reprise of the Senate hearing, only Concerned Women for America spoke against the bill. Kerry Messer stated that it will create the most family friendly vaccine policy in the state and that he wants his granddaughters protected as much as possible because "you can't control who they will marry and the experiences that person might have had before the marriage." In addition, Reps. Cooper and Kraus spoke in favor of the bill; Rep. Davis wondered aloud why men "the perpetrators who infect women" aren't getting vaccinated. This bill should be passed unanimously in the House.

PHARMACY DENIAL AMENDMENT ATTACHED TO PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION BILL

Last week, an amendment offered by **Rep. Ed Emery allowing pharmacies to 'gag' employees from telling women where to go to get birth control and Plan B** was attached in the House to **SB296**, the professional registration bill. The amendment deliberately confuses medication abortion with birth control, a common misleading argument made by opponents of abortion. The bill now goes to conference committee.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS...

President Obama, from his 100th day press conference: "The reason I'm pro-choice is because I don't think women take that position casually. I think that they struggle with these decisions each and every day. And I think they are in a better position to make these decisions ultimately than members of Congress or a president of the United States, in consultation with their families, with their doctors, with their clergy. So that has been my consistent position. The other thing that I said consistently during the campaign is I would like to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies that result in women feeling compelled to get an abortion, or at least considering getting an abortion, particularly if we can reduce the number of teen pregnancies, which has started to spike up again."

Via <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/29/AR2009042904505.html>

... WOMEN'S HEALTH BECOMES A NATIONAL PRIORITY!

- **Health Care Reform** — President Obama convened the White House Forum on Health Care Reform, signaling his commitment to ensuring every American has access to quality, affordable health care. PPFA President Cecile Richards was invited to participate and share how the organization, as a leading health care provider, sees the need to reform the nation's health care system to ensure that access to women's health is a priority.
- **Affordable Birth Control** — The president signed legislation to restore access to affordable birth control for millions of college students and low-income women, and help ensure access to affordable contraception for millions of women, especially in these tough economic times.
- **Budget Priorities** — In his proposed budget, the president included a commonsense Medicaid waiver to expand family planning under Medicaid and called for evidence-based, medically accurate sex education.
- **Global Gag Rule** — With the stroke of a pen, President Obama overturned the global gag rule and once again allowed millions of women around the world access to critical reproductive health care services.
- **HHS Midnight Rule** — The Obama administration began the process of rescinding the Bush administration's midnight HHS regulation that limits the rights of patients to receive complete and accurate health care information and services.
- **Secretary of State** — With the appointment of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Obama signaled his commitment to approach the issues of women's health and rights, family planning, and global poverty with the seriousness and commitment they deserve. Secretary Clinton understands that improving the status of women is not simply a moral imperative; it is necessary to building democracies around the globe.
- **Health and Human Services Secretary** — The president, nominated longtime champion of women's health, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, to be the secretary of HHS. Governor Sebelius has been a strong advocate for health care reform and has a proven track record of supporting increased access to affordable health care and commonsense prevention policies that improve health outcomes.
- **White House Council on Women and Girls** — The president established the White House Council on Women and Girls to focus on a wide range of issues facing American women and their families, including the high rate of unintended pregnancies and the alarming number of sexually transmitted infections.
- **Plan B** — Under the Obama administration, the FDA now supports over-the-counter access to Plan B (emergency contraception) for women 17 years and older.
- **AIDS Outreach** — President Obama has made a strong commitment to developing a comprehensive national HIV/AIDS strategy that includes all federal agencies. The strategy will be designed to reduce the number of HIV infections, increase access to health care, and reduce HIV-related health disparities to address the growing HIV/AIDS crisis among women and girls in the United States.