



Monday *MONITOR*

May 7, 2007

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BIASED COUNSELING BILL TO BE DEBATED ON HOUSE FLOOR MONDAY

According to the schedule from Rep. Dempsey's office, **HB821** (Onder R-13) – the Biased Counseling/Fetal Anesthesia bill – will be debated in the House on Monday. This bill inappropriately requires doctors to inform the few patients seeking an abortion after 20 weeks gestation that a fetus may feel pain during the procedure – ***despite the lack of scientific consensus within the medical community on that fact.*** Experts in the field place pain awareness closer to 29 or 30 weeks gestation. Patients would be required to read and sign a statement acknowledging these biased claims, and the doctor would be required to offer and administer fetal anesthesia – an experimental procedure that could increase health risks to the woman. Most women seeking abortions at this stage in pregnancy have been diagnosed with a devastating fetal anomaly. To subject the grieving woman and her family to such scare tactics is heartless and unconscionable. Representatives should vote NO on HB821.

PREVENTION FIRST! ANTI-CANCER VACCINE BILL MOVING

HB802 (Page D-82) is also rumored to be debated Monday in the House. This bill requires schools to send information to parents of girls entering middle school informing them of the availability of the HPV vaccine. If the parent returns a permission form, the girl will receive the vaccination as she receives other school required vaccinations. The first ever anti-cancer vaccine protects against two of the most virulent strains of HPV that lead to 70% of all cervical cancers. Members should vote YES on HB802.

OMNIBUS ANTI-ABORTION/SEX MIS-EDUCATION BILL VOTED 'DO PASS' IN COMMITTEE

With full and clear knowledge that **HCS HB1055** will **shut down abortion services** in Kansas City and Columbia – **and leave St. Louis as the only city in the entire state where a woman may obtain a safe and legal abortion** – the anti-choice majority on the Senate Judiciary Committee, at Governor Blunt's bidding, has voted to send the bill to the Senate floor for debate.

Testimony during the hearing reminded Senators that they had recently perfected a bill on the Senate floor that supports home childbirths using midwives. Planned Parenthood – as a women's health advocate – supports home births attended by trained, experienced, and appropriately licensed professionals. The sponsor of the Midwifery bill, Senator John Loudon (R-07), a member of the committee and vocal abortion opponent, is loud when it comes to his so-called concerns for the "health" and "safety" of the woman or teen seeking an abortion. Yet he apparently has none of those concerns regarding home deliveries, even though **childbirth – no matter where it takes place – is eleven times riskier than abortion.**

This bill would require any provider of at least five abortions per month – whether surgical or by medication – to become an Ambulatory Surgical Center. Currently, the ASC requirement applies only to facilities *"operated primarily for the purpose of performing surgical procedures...to 51% or more of the patients...or [that] derives 51% or more of its revenues"* from surgical services. [19 CSR 30-30.010]. 19 CSR 30-30.050 applies this same definition to 'abortion facilities.'

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Supporters of such targeted regulation of abortion providers claim it increases safety. Yet, the complication rate for surgical abortions is lower than, or equivalent to, five other commonly performed outpatient surgical procedures, and eleven times safer than childbirth:

Surgical Abortion	Rare ¹ , 0.92% ² , 0.4% ³
Lasik Eye Surgery	0.302% ⁴
Vasectomy	1% to 6% ⁵
D & C (non-abortion)	1.9% ⁶ , 1.4% ⁷
Wisdom Tooth Extraction	0.7% ⁸ , 12% ⁹
Incision of Ear Drum	1.6% ¹⁰

National Library of Medicine <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/> [footnotes available upon request]

HCS HB1055 will also:

- ☞ Allow public school students to receive medically inaccurate and incomplete information regarding contraception and sexual health
- ☞ Ban Planned Parenthood, hospitals, ob/gyn physicians, nurses, family planning clinics and other trained professionals from providing information and materials in public schools
- ☞ Restrict so-called 'alternatives to abortion' grantees from providing family planning counseling or services that could prevent a second unintended pregnancy

Governor Blunt has called for the legislature to send him “strong pro-life legislation” so he may demonstrate to his base that – despite his support for embryonic stem cell research, which has put him crosswise with the anti-abortion lobby – he can be “tough” with Planned Parenthood, with teens, and with women seeking safe, legal abortions. The health of women and teens should not be used as a football for political gain. Senators should vote NO on HB1055!

MO SUPREME COURT GUARANTEES COMPLETE INFORMATION TO MINORS

Jefferson City, MO, May 1 – While upholding the framework of the Teen Health Endangerment law, the MO Supreme Court dramatically limited its reach, ruling that medical professionals (such as Planned Parenthood) and clergy may provide minors with full information about their reproductive health options.

The law, which was passed in a September 2005 Special Session called by Governor Blunt, creates civil liability for trusted adults – including clergy, family members, teachers or health care providers – who “cause, aid or assist” a young woman who cannot involve a parent in her decision to have an abortion outside of Missouri. Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region (PPSLR), Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri (PPKM), and the Missouri Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (MO-RCRC) argued before the Missouri Supreme Court against the Teen Health Endangerment law in November 2006.

The Court had to narrow the statute’s scope in order to uphold the law, and in its ruling indicated that the “phrase ‘aid or assist’...cannot be constitutionally construed to include protected activities such as providing information or counseling.”

“As a trusted provider of information, we’re pleased that the State Supreme Court unanimously ruled that we can continue to provide accurate information and counseling to young women facing crisis pregnancies,” said Peter Brownlie, President and CEO of PPKM.

“The core issue of this case was our ability to provide information and counseling, and we’re pleased that the Court, in a unanimous decision, guaranteed our ability to do so and also makes clear to the Missouri Legislature that any future attempts to restrict such information and counseling would be found unconstitutional,” added Paula Gianino, President and CEO of PPSLR.

“We’re relieved to have resolution on this matter. The Court’s ruling clearly upheld the protections of the First Amendment and will allow clergy to counsel young women according to the teachings of their religious faith,” added Reverend Rebecca Turner, Executive Director of Missouri RCRC.