



# Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, January 25, 2010

Contact: Michelle Trupiano – 573.424.8717 (cell)

## THREE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIVE BILLS FILED (TOTAL OF 12 SO FAR THIS SESSION)

**Sen. Tom Dempsey (R-23)** filed [SB 792](#), an **Abortion Reporting Bill** similar to HB1546, that requires abortion providers to report to the state the reasons women give for seeking an abortion and what, if any, method of birth control they were using at the time they became pregnant. Co-sponsoring the Prevention First Act would be a much more effective way to reduce the numbers of abortions.

**Rep. Darrell Pollock (R-146)** filed [HB 1725](#) an **Abortion Insurance Ban** comparable to SB747. This bill would prohibit health insurance exchanges established in Missouri from offering health insurance policies *or optional riders that provide coverage for elective abortions and are paid for with private funds*. Missouri already bans insurance policies from covering abortion services although the law does allow for a rider. There is no evidence that additional rider policies are generally available in Missouri or the other 4 states with similar insurance bans.

**Sen. Rob Mayer (R-25)** filed [SB 793](#) a fourth version of the **Abortion Restriction Bill** without the so-called 'crime of abortion coercion' sections. This bill significantly intrudes into the informed consent and counseling process that women receive when seeking an abortion, placing new burdens on women and providers that are not necessary to protect women's health and serve only to make it more difficult for women to access this safe, legal medical procedure.

## ONE MORE PRO-ACTIVE, PUBLIC HEALTH BILL FILED

**Rep. Rachel Storch (D-64)** filed [HB 1740](#) an **Expedited Partner Therapy** bill similar to HB1375. This is an excellent public health approach to reducing the incidence of certain sexually transmitted infections.

## BILLS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

**SB747**, the **Abortion Insurance Ban** (Rupp) was referred to Senate Small Business and Insurance Committee. **SB696**, the **Prevention First Act** (Wright Jones) was referred to Senate Judiciary.

## AWESOME ROE V. WADE EVENTS HELD IN KANSAS CITY & ST. LOUIS; ONE MORE IN SPRINGFIELD

**KANSAS CITY:** More than 100 Planned Parenthood supporters came out last Wednesday evening to the beautiful Gem Theater in the heart of the jazz district to eat, drink, and celebrate choice. Attendees enjoyed treats donated from a number of local restaurants and a riveting discussion with Alesha Doan, assistant professor at the University of Kansas, about her book, *Opposition and Intimidation: The Abortion Wars and Strategies of Political Harassment*.

**ST LOUIS:** Close to 130 Freedom of Choice Coalition supporters passed through The Wine Press last Friday night. Stand-up comedian Kate Clinton enthusiastically addressed the gathering and helped pull the winning raffle numbers for tickets (generously donated by PROMO) to her performance later that evening to support PROMO. Several elected officials stopped by including Councilwoman Barbara Fraser, Reps. Jeanne Kirkton, Stacey Newman, Sam Komo, Bert Atkins, Jeanette Mott Oxford, Tishaura Jones, Margo McNeil, and Sen. Jolie Justus, who came in from Kansas City.

## ROE V WADE EVENT IN SPRINGFIELD THIS WEDNESDAY

**SPRINGFIELD: Wednesday, 7:00PM**—Choice Reception & Awards. Join local poets and slam artists to celebrate choice at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 2434 E. Battlefield. Tickets: \$10 (\$5 for students). For more info: [crystal.brigman@ppslr.org](mailto:crystal.brigman@ppslr.org)

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**2010 Choice Lobby Days: Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>; & Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## **ROEDER TRIAL STARTS ON ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE DECISION**

By Carolyn Marie Fugit—Jan 22 2010—RHRealityCheck.org (<http://www.rhrealitycheck.org>)

After months of motions, calls to the media, and the ensuing circus surrounding his trial, [Scott Roeder](#) [1] will finally "have his day in court." This morning, January 22nd, 2010, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Roeder's trial for the first-degree murder of [Dr. George Tiller](#) [2] begins with opening statements.

Since May, we have heard much about Dr. Tiller, his practice, and his life. Dr. Tiller's clinic was bombed in 1986, was part of the "Summer of Mercy" in 1991, and he was shot in both arms in 1993 by Rachelle "Shelley" Shannon. He and his staff, going about day-to-day life, were regularly followed by anti-choice forces, [protesting their homes, leafleting their neighbors, and digging through their trash](#) [3]. Websites were dedicated to following Dr. Tiller, his staff, and his volunteers. For several years, he had private security for both his clinic and himself. They attended church with him for a while. But he stood unprotected, living as a normal Wichitan, when Scott Roeder cruelly shot Dr. Tiller as he ushered at the church he had attended for years.

We have also heard much about Roeder, his personal life, and his beliefs. His ex-wife, Lindsey, said he was quite normal when they were married. But in the early 90s, he started to change. He became obsessed with a televangelist, sending him the money they needed for their young family. He eventually moved out, and in 1996, a police officer pulled him over and found explosives in the trunk of his car. A court found him guilty of criminal use of explosives, but the search of his car was illegal and the conviction dropped.

He has been involved with the most radical of anti-choice activists: he visited Shannon while she was in jail in Topeka for shooting Dr. Tiller; he spent time with Regina Dinwiddie, one of the first people tried under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act; he has been in regular contact with David Leach, publisher of *Prayer & Action News* which included writings from Roeder, and who reprinted the *Army of God manual*. In the days before he traveled to Wichita, witnesses at the Aid to Women abortion clinic in Kansas City, Kansas, saw him running away after gluing the locks of the clinic, though the FBI did not investigate.

Thursday evening, 8 men and 6 women had been seated, most of them over 40 according to [Ron Sylvester of the Wichita Eagle](#) [4]. Friday will see a few final motions, the jury being sworn in, and opening statements. It will also see Dinwiddie, Leach, Donald Spitz, and other activists for anti-abortion terrorism out in force and in the courtroom to support Roeder.

Dr. Tiller's family is not expected to be in the courtroom though friends, including former clinic employees and escorts, will be there. After all, this trial is about murder, the murder of a man who helped thousands of women, who contributed to his community, who was involved in his church, and who trusted women.

## **LEADING WOMEN'S ADVOCATES DENOUNCE BROWN'S RECORD ON CHOICE**

*[excerpts from January 12 press release]*

At a Boston press conference in mid-January, Massachusetts' leading advocacy organizations for women's reproductive rights denounced Republican Scott Brown's poor record on a woman's right to choose. [...]

The organizations blasted Scott Brown's previously proposed legislation that, if it had passed, would have allowed hospital emergency rooms to deny emergency contraception to victims of rape. [...]

"With many health care battles still to be fought and with a closely divided Supreme Court, who Massachusetts elects to the U.S. Senate on January 19 will have an impact that is felt nationally and felt for years to come," said Dianne Luby of Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts. "It is baffling to hear Scott Brown paint himself as a supporter of women's reproductive health. The amendment he filed in 2005 to the Emergency Contraception Bill would have forced rape survivors to travel from hospital to hospital seeking emergency contraception. That certainly doesn't feel supportive." [...]

- Brown was the lead sponsor of a legislative amendment in 2005 that would have allowed hospital emergency rooms to deny emergency contraception to victims of rape.
- Brown recently filed legislation that, if enacted, would allow the removal of previously mandated insurance coverage for [...] mammograms, minimum maternity stays for new mothers, and screenings (pap smears) to detect, among other possible conditions, cervical cancer at an early, treatable stage.
- Brown opposes national health care reform that includes many benefits for women, such as ending denials by insurance companies to women who have had a Caesarean section or who suffered domestic abuse under the premise that they were "pre-existing conditions."

*[The press conference was organized by NARAL-Pro-Choice Massachusetts, PP League of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, and Massachusetts NOW]*

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