



Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, March 15, 2010

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2010 ABORTION RESTRICTION BILL

At the beginning of this year, five abortion restriction bills were filed, three that included the creation of the crime of 'coercion of an abortion'. Currently there are two in play—**SB 793** (Mayer, R-25) and **HB1327** (Davis, R-19). **SB 793** was debated on the Senate floor for 45 minutes on March 3 before it was laid on the informal calendar; it can now be brought up at any time. During debate, several anti-choice Senators discussed with each other the need for 'protections' for women, the need to 'empower' them with information so that the 'ladies' are not hurt. Senators Bray and Days engaged in discussion and helped to reinforce the fact that women are already provided full information—including all of the options before them—as well as detailed information regarding the risks of these options, and that they sign documents, along with the physician, that attest to the decision being fully informed and voluntary. The substitute that was brought to the floor for debate is a more restrictive version than passed the Senate last year; Senator Justus has voiced her strong concerns that this is moving backwards from the lengthy and difficult negotiations that took place last year.

HB 1327 passed out of the Children and Families committee and was referred to the Rules committee on February 25. The Rules committee has yet to hear the bill.

BILL STATUS: WHERE WE STAND ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AFTER SPRING BREAK

Restrictive Bills:

- **HB 1211** (Dusenberg), **HB 1327** (Davis), **HB 1238** (Davis), **HB 2000** (Pratt), **SB 793** (Mayer) – 2010 Abortion Restriction Bill [status respectively: 2nd read; referred to Rules; heard; superseded by HB1327; on informal calendar]
- **HB 1236** (Davis) – Abortion Physician Intimidation Act [2nd read]
- **HB 1257** (Smith) – Prison Time for Pregnant Women [2nd read]
- **HB 1365** (Emery) – Pharmacy Denial [heard]
- **HB 1546** (Harris) and **SB 792** (Dempsey) – Additional Reporting Requirements [heard; on Perfection Calendar]
- **SB 747** (Rupp), **HB 1725** (Pollock) **HB 2145** (Gatschenberger) – Abortion Insurance Ban [referred; referred; 2nd read]
- **HJR 49** (Davis) – Ban on public funds for abortion even in the case of rape and incest [2ND read]

Pro-active Bills:

- **SB 627** (Justus) and **HB 2080** (Kelly) – Cervical Cancer Immunization [in Fiscal Oversight; 2nd read]
- **SB 676** (Wright Jones) and **HB 2065** (Morris) – Prostate Cancer Prevention [heard; 2nd read]
- **SB 696** (Wright Jones), **SB 982** (Bray) and **HB 2232** (Low) – Prevention First Act [referred; referred; 2nd read]
- **HB 1375** (Cooper), **HB 1740** (Storch) and **SB 955** (Wright Jones) – Expedited Partner Therapy [in Rules; 2nd read; referred]
- **HB 1914** (Oxford) and **SB 1010** (Bray) – Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies [2nd read; referred]
- **HB 1935** (Low) – Cervical Cancer Screening Insurance Coverage [2nd read]
- **HB 1961** (Newman) – Patient Protection at Pharmacies [2nd read]
- **HB 1523** (Hoskins) – Uterine Fibroid Information and Education [passed out of committee]

LOOK FOR PRO-CHOICE ADVOCATES ALLOVER THE CAPITOL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 16
WE WILL BE PROMOTING PREVENTION & OPPOSING MORE RESTRICTIONS

CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMITTEE CHAIR CONTINUES BAD BEHAVIOR

After a series of recent political blunders—banning Rep. Mott Oxford from her committee for being ‘offensive,’ failing to follow hearing rules, taking votes out of order—Rep. Davis has also now thrown Roberts Rules AND decorum completely out the window.

At the March 3rd hearing (ostensibly) on **HB1238**—one of Davis’ Abortion Restriction bills—Rep. Davis allowed one witness to dominate for close to 30 minutes, and other supporters to testify after him, having told the committee they would not be allowed to ask any questions of the sponsor or the witnesses. Even more outrageous, the first witness, David Reardon—a ‘mail order’ PhD who runs the anti-abortion Elliot Institute in St. Charles—testified to a totally different bill, **HB1236**, the **Abortion Physician Intimidation Act**, also sponsored by Rep. Davis but not yet referred to committee. Pro-choice members of the committee were understandably perplexed and angry at this deception, but were told by Rep. Davis that hearings are for ‘discussing concepts’ regardless of their connection to bills before the committee. Minority Floor Leader, Rep. Paul LeVota, who has been attending this committee’s hearings in response to the many complaints of irregularities, was rebuffed when he tried to ask a question of the Chair.

MO-RTL and Concerned Women for America went on record in support of the bill that was not discussed; several other organizations were present but remained silent.

We have also learned that Rep. Davis is circulating a substitute for **HB 1238** that roles together **HB 1236** (Physician Intimidation), **HB 1365** (Pharmacy Denial) and **HB 1536** (Additional Reporting Requirements) and does not include ANY of the original language of HB 1238.

EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY PASSED OUT OF COMMITTEE

In exciting news, **HB 1375** (Cooper, R-155) unanimously passed out of the House Health Care Policy Committee, however it contained an amendment that would require the “individual who is the partner of the person with Chlamydia or gonorrhea” to complete and return “a medical history form provided by the licensed physician.” The goal of this common sense legislation is to reduce the spread of Chlamydia and gonorrhea by eliminating the doctor/physician relationship requirement, as is the case in many other states. The amendment should be stripped from this public health bill so it can move to passage through an expedited ‘consent’ process.

HWJVHC: HOW WOULD JESUS VOTE ON HEALTH CARE?

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Editorial Board, Sunday, March 14, 2010

How would Jesus vote on health care reform? Rep. Todd Akin, R-Town and Country, is sure Jesus would hate it. Mr. Akin stood in the well of the House of Representatives on Tuesday and said that as one who believes in “supernatural” intercession, he was [asking for God's help](#) in killing the reform. “I believe, as we stand on the abyss tonight, that those Americans who are wont to turn to God for answers that this is a time to be doing that,” Mr. Akin said. “To ask for his help, supernaturally, so that we don’t make this fatal step pushing our nation into socialized medicine.” On Wednesday morning, Mr. Akin appeared via video hook-up at a town hall forum in St. Charles at which he [credited God](#) for depriving Democrats of a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. He repeated his hopes that God would intervene to kill the health care bill.

[...]

As a member of Congress, he earns \$174,000 a year and gets [excellent taxpayer-paid health care benefits](#), which replaced the excellent taxpayer-paid health care benefits for which he was eligible in the previous 12 years as a member of the Missouri Legislature. God has been good to Mr. Akin, but so have the taxpayers.

Mr. Akin is one of about [87 million Americans](#) covered by taxpayer-subsidized health insurance, about a third of everyone in the country who has health insurance. That includes people on Medicare and Medicaid, as well as politicians and public employees at every level of government, military personnel and their families. Mr. Akin’s God apparently is fine with that. It’s just when you start talking about extending subsidies to the poor and the working poor that Mr. Akin’s God has problems. That would be socialism. That would be staring into the abyss.

There are religious people and organizations who cite their own beliefs as reason for their support of health care reform. Indeed, Roman Catholic liberation theologians teach that there is a [“preferential option for the poor.”](#) Isaiah, one of the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, [quotes God](#) as demanding of the “elders and leaders of his people”: “What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of the poor?”

Here we run into the old conundrum: Do the admonitions of the great religions to care for the poor apply to societies or only to individuals and churches? Mr. Akin has made up his mind. Other believers will have to make up theirs — and then pray that they’re right.

For full editorial, go to: <http://interact.stltoday.com/blogzone/the-platform/uncategorized/2010/03/hwjvc-how-would-jesus-vote-on-health-care/>