



Monday *MONITOR*

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SENATE THIRD READS, APPROVES ABORTION RESTRICTION BILL

During third reading on Thursday, the Senate approved (27-5) **SS SCS SB 793 (Mayer, R-25)**, the **2010 Abortion Restriction Bill**. It was quickly read into the House but has not yet been referred to committee.

The bill inserts politicians into the doctor-patient relationship and adds many new burdensome and unnecessary requirements to the informed consent process for abortion. In addition, the bill attempts to impose an abortion coverage ban even more extreme than the ban proposed by Representative Bart Stupak of Michigan, which was defeated in Congress this year. As a trusted provider of reproductive health care, Planned Parenthood believes every woman should have evenhanded and unbiased information so she can protect her health and make the best decision for her circumstances. Every woman needs—and Missouri women currently get—information about the risks involved with, and alternatives to, abortion but that information should not be written to coerce, shame or pressure the woman into making a decision that is not right for her. SB 793 forces politicians between women and their doctors by requiring health care providers to deliver an ideological script to patients. This bill is not about information, it's about intrusion with the clear intent to impose state-mandated ideology designed to shame and intimidate all women. Missourians view this as the worst type of government interference into their personal, private medical decisions.

The bill hypocritically requires 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. The Senators voted to make these false promises shortly after approving a state budget that cuts education and many programs that serve women and children. SB 793 would also deny women the ability to purchase private health plans that cover abortion, even if they pay the premiums with their own money. This bill reaches much further than current Missouri law and the defeated Stupak ban by prohibiting the sale of single service riders for abortion coverage purchased with private individual funds. SB 793 goes well beyond the Hyde Amendment, which has prohibited public funding of abortion in most instances since 1977.

Planned Parenthood urges the House to reject this bill and protect the doctor-patient relationship from government interference and state-mandated ideology.

SIMILAR—BUT MORE TOXIC—ABORTION RESTRICTION BILLS STILL MOVING

In case the restrictions and added intrusion in SB 793 is not enough for Missouri politicians to burnish their 'pro-life' credentials, **HB1238 (Davis, R-19)** and **HB 1327 & 2000 (Davis, R-19 and Pratt, R-55)** are STILL moving. HB1238—a version that also includes language denying women birth control at pharmacies and requiring doctors to report to the state why their patient is seeking an abortion—is now #13 on the House Perfection Calendar. A sub for **HB 1327/2000** was approved in Senate Judiciary on Monday night but has not yet been turned in; the sub removes some of the language that goes beyond the provisions in SB 793.

TAX CREDITS APPROVED FOR FAKE “CLINICS” THAT LIE AND MISINFORM PREGNANT WOMEN

Once again, the House has approved providing generous tax credits to donors to Crisis Pregnancy Centers that lie to and deliberately misinform pregnant women in order to shame them into childbirth. Even those legislators who are critical of tax credits folded when presented with an anti-abortion 'score' letter; Rep. Sanders made sure to mention, during debate, that the memo was on each legislator's desk. Thanks go to pro-choice Representatives Atkins, Chappelle-Nadal, Englund, LeVota, Norr, Schupp, Still and Zimmerman for speaking against the bill. As Rep. Zimmerman noted, "One thing that falls into not so good investment of our money is abstinence education for women who are already pregnant."

HB2252 (Faith, R-15) is a bad bill in a good economy; it is an outrageous bill in a bad one.

♥ APRIL IS “GYT” MONTH—GET YOURSELF TESTED FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS ♥

EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY, WITH DILUTED HPV AMENDMENT, APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

HB1375 (Cooper, R-155), Expedited Partner Therapy, was approved unanimously in Senate Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families Committee. The bad amendment added in House Committee was removed and a scaled back version of **SB627 (Justus, D-10), the Cervical Cancer Immunization** bill, was amended on.

The original, public health oriented Cervical Cancer Immunization bill sponsored by Sen. Justus required DHSS to send information home to parents and guardians of all girls entering 6th grade regarding the connection between HPV and cervical cancer and the availability of the HPV immunization. The information was to include the risk factors for developing cervical cancer, the connection between HPV and cervical cancer, how it is transmitted and how transmission can be prevented, the latest scientific information about the immunization's effectiveness, information about the importance of pap smears, and a statement explaining that questions from parents or guardians may be answered by a health care provider. To measure the effectiveness of the communication, parents and guardians were asked to voluntarily return a form stating they had received the information. The bill did not, however, require immunization for school attendance. The amendment attached to HB1375 now simply requires DHSS to send a few brochures to school districts for them to distribute to parents—expressly NOT via their students—if they choose to.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a common virus that is spread through sexual contact, but most of the time HPV has no symptoms so people do not know they have it. This vaccine targets the types of HPV that most commonly cause cervical cancer and genital warts. The vaccine is highly effective in preventing those types of HPV and related diseases in young women when administered before onset of sexual activity which is why it is recommended for girls/women ages 9 through 26. It is unconscionable that dissemination of information about such a life-and health-saving vaccine would be minimized like this.

The committee gutted the intent of the HPV bill citing deep budget cuts to DHSS. Yet, DHSS is still deemed able to afford to produce brochures, signs, and other materials required by the Abortion Restriction Bills to force state mandated ideological speech onto women who seek abortion...

WHY ABORTION INSURANCE BANS ARE IMMORAL: ANOTHER PERSONAL STORY

"In 2006 I became pregnant and was thrilled. After landing in the hospital with a severe kidney infection at 19-weeks gestation, I received my first ultrasound, leaving us shocked and thrilled to see we were expecting identical twin boys. The joy didn't last when our babies were diagnosed with Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome. Webmd.com describes Twin-Twin transfusion syndrome as "the most serious complication of identical twins. It starts in the womb when one twin gets too much blood and the other not enough. The outcome for both twins is grim." Severe TTTS has a 60-100 percent likelihood of fetal or neonatal mortality rate. We were sent to one of the premier fetal care centers in the country and told our only hope for saving this pregnancy was to have a selective termination on the one of the babies, and hope the other twin would survive.

"At my next doctor appointment when I asked my perinatologist if the termination we had would be allowed under the abortion ban passed in South Dakota in 2006, he said no. I was outraged and felt violated, how a group of individuals dare think they can make life-altering medical decisions for me. If I hadn't had the termination, I would have buried two babies instead of only one. I contacted the group coordinating the effort to repeal the ban, the South Dakota Campaign for Healthy Families, and the next day I was giving my first interview with Newsweek. In 2008 the same anti-choicers were back attempting to ban abortion. They gained enough signatures to put Initiated Measure 11 on the ballot. I once again shared my story with the world in the hopes that South Dakota voters would vote against Initiated Measure 11 and keep a women's right to choose in place. For the second time in two consecutive elections, voters rejected an attempt to ban abortion in S.D.

"I never thought I would have to once again open deep wounds and share my deeply personal story, but then the Stupak-Pitts Amendment was added to the House version of the Affordable Health Care for America Act. The selective termination that saved my baby's life would not be covered under the Stupak-Pitts Amendment. The total bill from the fetal care center was just over \$220,000. Add the care for the entire pregnancy and the cost was well over \$500,000. We were fortunate that our insurance covered 80% of the costs. Had they not, I'm not sure what we would have done. Why should I have to choose between having a life-saving procedure that will most likely put us into bankruptcy while at the same time forcing me to choose between the best interests of our much wanted unborn child versus the best interests of our other two children?

"After three years we have finally paid off our share of bills from that pregnancy. TTTS doesn't pick wealthy families to affect. I was fortunate to have a husband with a good job and insurance. Many women are not as fortunate and it is because of these women I am once again fighting against anti-choice attempts to limit a women's right to reproductive health care."

Excerpted from Tiffany's speech presented at a Stop Stupak rally in Washington, DC in December 2009. You can hear more about Tiffany's story by [clicking here](#) and watching this short video.

Statewide Website

www.ppmissouri.org