

**2010 Abortion Restriction Bill  
Senate Substitute for SB 793 (Mayer)**

**FACT SHEET**

**SB 793** contains many new, burdensome, and unnecessary requirements to the informed consent procedure for abortion. The bill intrudes on the doctor/patient relationship and ignores the standard practice of medical care already in place for abortion providers. SB 793 also prohibits health insurance exchanges established in Missouri from offering private health insurance policies or optional riders that provide coverage for elective abortions paid for with private funds. The bills would ban private abortion coverage in the exchange even in cases of rape, incest and severe fetal anomalies.

As a trusted provider of reproductive health care, Planned Parenthood believes that every woman should have evenhanded and unbiased information so she can protect her health and make the best decision for her circumstances. A woman needs – and Missouri women get – information about the risks involved with, and alternatives to, abortion but the information should not be written to coerce, shame or pressure the woman into making a decision that is not right for her.

**This bill would:**

- Require abortion providers to use brochures and videos developed by state bureaucrats rather than information developed by trusted medical organizations like the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology or the American Medical Association. These brochures must prominently display the statement “*the life of each human being begins at conception. Abortion will terminate the life of a separate, unique, living human being,*” despite the fact that there is no medical or legal reason for the statement which is designed to shame and intimidate women,
- 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,
- Have no impact on existing state and federal law that prohibits *public* funds for abortion services or coverage except in cases of rape, incest (federal) or life endangerment. These funding bans remain in place and prohibit *public* funds from going toward abortion,
- Expand Missouri’s existing ban on *private* insurance policies from covering abortion,
- Prohibit an individual or employer from purchasing abortion coverage with *private* funds – even in cases of rape, incest and severe fetal anomalies.

**SB 793 Promotes Government Intrusion NOT Safety**

Abortion is the most highly regulated medical procedure in Missouri. Under current state law, any woman seeking an abortion must go through counseling, sign a consent form stating her decision is completely free and voluntary and then wait at least 24 hours before having the procedure. Current law also includes:

- A ban on state funding for abortion.
- A ban on public facilities or employees being used in the performance of abortions.
- A prohibition on insurance companies offering abortion coverage as part of their regular benefits package.
- A requirement that minors have written parental consent before having an abortion.

This bill seeks only to place more unnecessary burdens on abortion providers and women seeking abortion and does nothing to actually prevent unintended pregnancy.