



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2 (SPECIAL SESSION)
BEFORE THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

JUNE 29, 2021

Advocates for unborn human lives are united in the commitment to deny public funding to abortion providers. Pro-life Missourians have worked tirelessly for 50 years to end abortion and we find it abhorrent to think we could be forced to pay for abortions.

Missouri Right to Life has been consistent over the years in supporting life-saving legislation to save innocent preborn babies from being killed in such horrendous ways and to protect pregnant moms from the deceptions of the abortion industry.

For the following reasons, Missouri Right to Life supports HB 2:

- 1. Last year Planned Parenthood, the nation's number one abortion provider, sued the State of Missouri in order to gain access to all Missouri citizens public tax dollars. The Missouri Supreme Court ruled that legislators could not legislate in a budget bill. The pro-life majority in the Missouri Senate has voted on this language in budget bills for at least 5 years. It is now time to put pro-life protections in statute to defund Planned Parenthood.**
- 2. The pro-abortion Biden Administration has filed the FY 2022 budget and it does away with the Hyde Amendment. If they are successful in this effort to exclude the Hyde Amendment then this will make federal tax dollars available to pay for more abortions.**
- 3. Cole County Circuit Judge Beetem, in Cole County Court on Monday, June 21 during the hearing on Medicaid Expansion, said that the legislature could change statute 208.151, 208.152 or 208.153 to put the pro-life language preventing funds from going to abortion providers if they wanted to.**
- 4. Although Judge Beetem ruled in support of the legislature not expanding Medicaid due to no funding mechanism, we know that the ruling has been appealed. If the rolls of Medicaid are expanded, then abortion numbers would most likely increase. This makes the need for strong pro-life protections necessary in 208.151, or 208.152 or 208.153.**
- 5. Court precedent on the "no funding of abortion providers" has been decided in the Texas and Arkansas Medicaid funding debate. Texas and Arkansas have defunded Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid dollars and they have NOT lost their Medicaid funding.**
- 6. The Missouri GOP platform says:
The Missouri Republican Party supports "current state law preventing taxpayer money from subsidizing abortions or organizations performing abortions or making abortion referrals."**

Remember in this...Judge Beetem says that legislators can and have the right to make a law to put the pro-life language in 208.151, 208.152 or 208.153 if they want to. You have the power and position to MAKE this a current state law.

7. The National GOP platform says:

“We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions....” Missouri Republican Delegates voted to affirm this language in the National GOP Party platform.

MAIN POINT BROUGHT TO LIGHT DURING THE SENATE DEBATE:
PLANNED PARENTHOOD IS RECEIVING OUR TAX DOLLARS

- 1. Planned Parenthood testified that they are receiving public funding from Medicaid.**
- 2. Planned Parenthood is receiving checks from the State.**
- 3. And, stated on the Senate floor – Planned Parenthood is only receiving \$200,000 or more of public dollars, what difference does that make, we just can’t risk losing other monies. Another admission that Planned Parenthood is receiving our tax dollars.**

FROM PRO-LIFE MISSOURIANS:

Place pro-life protections “in statute” to protect innocent unborn babies from the abortion industry.

To ask the pro-life community to back off of our request to stop our tax dollars from going to Planned Parenthood to pay for or subsidize abortions is unbelievable and pro-life Missourians will not do this. Our goal is to save innocent human lives in all cases and work to prevent our public dollars from paying for or subsidizing abortions and the destruction of innocent human lives from conception until natural death.

Therefore, Missouri Right to Life asks the Missouri House to ban public funding of abortion providers in Section 208.152.

The votes on this bill and others in this special session are of the utmost importance to pro-life Missourians and will be considered as such by Missouri Right to Life.

Pro-life Missourians await the outcome of this special session.