

MCC Positions and Progress Report

MCC position bills pending in 2023 Missouri General Assembly ~ 1/23/2023

Protect Human Life

Abortion Drug Mandate

Original Bill: [HB161](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Ian Mackey (D)

Description: Establishes the "Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act".

Position Statement: Oppose: This legislation would mandate emergency room personnel to offer all approved FDA drugs to rape victims including those that can act as abortifacients. "To refuse to take part in committing an injustice is not only a moral duty; it is a basic human right." (Evangelium Vitae, par. 74) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB619](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Jo Doll (D)

Description: Creates provisions relating to emergency contraception for victims of sexual assault.

Position Statement: Oppose: This legislation would mandate emergency room personnel to offer all approved FDA drugs to rape victims including those that can act as abortifacients. "To refuse to take part in committing an injustice is not only a moral duty; it is a basic human right." (Evangelium Vitae, par. 74) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Abortion Funding/Prohibition

Original Bill: [SB160](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Nick Schroer (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to public funding of abortion facilities and affiliates and provisions relating to MO HealthNet providers.

Position Statement: Support: Abortion is the taking of human life and Missouri taxpayers should not be forced to pay for abortion services or to support those institutions which perform elective abortions. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SJR8](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Bill Eigel (R)

Description: Prohibits expenditures of public funds to any person or facility, or affiliate of such, performing or inducing an abortion.

Position Statement: Support: Abortion is the taking of human life and Missouri taxpayers should not be forced to pay for abortion services or to support those institutions which perform elective abortions. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate-Health and Welfare

Abortion on Demand

Original Bill: [SB108](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Lauren Arthur (D)

Description: Repeals provisions of law relating to abortion.

Position Statement: Oppose: Legislation seeks to overturn pro-life protections currently found in Missouri law by the use of misleading rhetoric on "reproductive choices." 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/19/2023 S - Referred to Senate-Health and Welfare

Death Penalty Repeal

Original Bill: [HB609](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Sarah Unsicker (D)

Description: Abolishes the death penalty and specifies that any person sentenced to death must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

Position Statement: Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2267) 01/28/22

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB839](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Patty Lewis (D)

Description: Abolishes the death penalty and specifies that any person sentenced to death must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

Position Statement: Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2267) 01/28/22

Last Action: 01/19/2023 H - Read Second Time

Death Penalty/Jury Instructions

Original Bill: [HB694](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Michael Davis (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to trial procedures for murder in the first degree.

Position Statement: Support: Support legislation as way to scale back the use of the death penalty, a practice which undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/09/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB828](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Ian Mackey (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to trial procedures for murder in the first degree.

Position Statement: Support: Support legislation as way to scale back the use of the death penalty, a practice which undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/19/2023 H - Read Second Time

Fertility Treatment Mandate

Original Bill: [HB266](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Chris Sander (R)

Description: Requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for in vitro fertilization.

Position Statement: Oppose: Artificial reproductive techniques like artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilization (IVF) depersonalize the act of creating a child, and require the harvesting of human eggs and the artificial storage of human embryos, denying them maternal reception and gestation. IVF also often results in the destruction of excess embryos through selective reduction after implantation (a form of abortion), or destruction for use in human embryonic stem cell research. (Dignitas Personae, par. 18) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Prohibition on Abortion Drug Trafficking

Original Bill: [HB163](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brian Seitz (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to abortion, including the importation and distribution of drugs used to induce abortions.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would punish entities that promote or distribute abortion drugs that are used in an unlawful manner. Part of the effort to create a culture of life. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB491](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Cierpiot (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to abortion, including the importation and distribution of drugs used to perform or induce abortions.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would punish entities that promote or distribute abortion drugs that are used in an unlawful manner. Part of the effort to create a culture of life. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Introduced and Read First Time

Advance Social and Economic Justice for All

Benefits Cliff

Original Bill: [HB719](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Alex Riley (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to public assistance.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation offers transitional benefits for those who receive an increase in income that would otherwise make them ineligible for any assistance in order to encourage work. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/10/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB82](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to public assistance.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation offers transitional benefits for those who receive an increase in income that would otherwise make them ineligible for any assistance in order to encourage work. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate-Health and Welfare

Food Stamps/Felony Convictions

Original Bill: [HB857](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Marlon Anderson (D)

Description: Allows a person convicted of a drug-related felony to become eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits upon meeting certain conditions.

Position Statement: Support: Prohibiting former drug offenders from receiving food stamps is a form of double punishment not experienced by other offenders. This legislation corrects this injustice while ensuring that former offenders are receiving (or have received) substance abuse treatment. "Finally, we must welcome ex-offenders back into society as full participating members, to the extent feasible." (Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, U.S. Catholic Bishops, par. 7) 01/28/22

Last Action: 01/19/2023 H - Read Second Time

Food Stamps/Work Requirements

Original Bill: [HB747](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Chad Perkins (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to work requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Position Statement: Oppose: In the zeal to get people to work, sanctions should not be imposed that deny basic food allowances to parents and/or children. There are better ways to encourage work. If the state is going to impose work requirements for social programs, it should appropriate sufficient funding for the administration of these requirements. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/11/2023 H - Read Second Time

Medicaid Work Requirements

Original Bill: [SJR4](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Andrew Koenig (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet beneficiaries, providers, and services.

Position Statement: Oppose: Work requirements for Medicaid recipients put them at risk of losing coverage, resulting in the inconsistent delivery of care over time, and poor health outcomes for those with chronic conditions. Part of the effort to ensure access to affordable health care for all. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, par. 166) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate-Health and Welfare

Postpartum Care

Original Bill: [HB254](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Pollitt (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to health care services for pregnant and postpartum women.

Position Statement: Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1908) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB286](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Patty Lewis (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to health care services for pregnant and postpartum women.

Position Statement: Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1908) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB328](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D)

Description: Extends coverage for mothers in the Show-Me Healthy Babies Program to one year postpartum.

Position Statement: Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1908) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB354](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Bishop Davidson (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet services for pregnant and postpartum women.

Position Statement: Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1908) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB91](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Jonathan Patterson (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet services for pregnant and postpartum women.

Position Statement: Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1908) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB45](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Elaine Gannon (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet services for pregnant and postpartum women.

Position Statement: Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1908) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/18/2023 S - Hearing Conducted

Original Bill: [SB90](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Tracy McCreery (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to MO HealthNet services for pregnant and postpartum women.

Position Statement: Support: Postpartum care is critical to the well-being of all women who have given birth. The Church charges public authorities with upholding the common good. This includes ensuring vulnerable people have access to affordable healthcare. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1908) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/18/2023 S - Hearing Conducted

Solutions for Food Deserts

Original Bill: [SB143](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Doug Beck (D)

Description: Establishes a tax credit for grocery stores in a food desert.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation offers an incentive for individuals to establish urban gardens in underserved areas, helping to alleviate "food deserts" where fresh foods are in limited supply. Part of sharing our abundance with those in need. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Uphold and Strengthen Marriage and Family

Gender Reassignment Treatment Ban

Original Bill: [HB419](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Hudson (R)

Description: Creates provisions relating to gender transition procedures.

Position Statement: Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. "[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology." Laudato Si', No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB463](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Mazzie Boyd (R)

Description: Creates provisions relating to gender transition procedures.

Position Statement: Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. "[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology." Laudato Si', No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB540](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Justin Sparks (R)

Description: Creates provisions relating to gender transition procedures.

Position Statement: Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. "[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology." Laudato Si', No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB164](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Jill Carter (R)

Description: Establishes the "Missouri Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act".

Position Statement: Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. "[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology." Laudato Si', No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB236](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Denny Hoskins (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to gender reassignment treatment for children.

Position Statement: Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. “[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology.” Laudato Si’, No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB281](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Bill Eigel (R)

Description: Prohibits hormonal or surgical gender reassignment for a child under eighteen years of age.

Position Statement: Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. “[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology.” Laudato Si’, No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB49](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Moon (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to Gender Reassignment Treatment Ban.

Position Statement: Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. “[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology.” Laudato Si’, No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Internet Filters for Adult Content

Original Bill: [SB308](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

Description: Requires internet service providers to authenticate access to obscene websites and provide subscribers the ability to create an authentication to access such websites.

Position Statement: Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content for adults will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Pediatric Do Not Resuscitate

Original Bill: [HB594](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Hannah Kelly (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to do-not-resuscitate orders for children.

Position Statement: Support: Do Not Resuscitate orders entered for children with severe disabilities with the consent of the parents should be honored both in the hospital and outside the hospital during transport. This respects the decisions of the parents in consultation with their physicians and others involved in these difficult decisions. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB228](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to do-not-resuscitate orders for children.

Position Statement: Support: Do Not Resuscitate orders entered for children with severe disabilities with the consent of the parents should be honored both in the hospital and outside the hospital during transport. This respects the decisions of the parents in consultation with their physicians and others involved in these difficult decisions. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Sex Ed Opt Out

Original Bill: [HB137](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Hudson (R)

Description: Changes provisions relating to instruction in human sexuality in schools.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation affirms the right of parents to direct the education of their children, especially as it relates to the sensitive and challenging issue of human sexuality. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB390](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

Description: Establishes provisions relating to classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in certain grade levels.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation affirms the right of parents to direct the education of their children, especially as it relates to the sensitive and challenging issue of human sexuality. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Sex Separated Sports

Original Bill: [HB170](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brian Seitz (R)

Description: Establishes guidelines for student participation in athletic contests organized by sex.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB183](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Jamie Burger (R)

Description: Establishes guidelines for student participation in athletic contests organized by sex.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB337](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Bennie Cook (R)

Description: Establishes guidelines for student participation in athletic contests organized by sex.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB165](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Jill Carter (R)

Description: Creates the "Save Women's Sports Act" and provisions regarding usage of school locker rooms.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB2](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Denny Hoskins (R)

Description: Establishes the "Save Women's Sports Act" relating to female-only athletics in middles schools, high schools, and colleges.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Original Bill: [SB29](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer (R)

Description: Prohibits an athletic team sponsored by a school from allowing a student to compete in an athletic competition designated for the opposite biological sex.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Original Bill: [SB39](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Holly Thompson Rehder (R)

Description: Establishes guidelines for student participation in athletic contests organized by sex.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Original Bill: [SB48](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Moon (R)

Description: Establishes the "Save Women's Sports Act" relating to female-only athletics in middle schools, high schools, and colleges.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Original Bill: [SB87](#)

Amended Bill:

Sponsor: Sen. Ben Brown (R)

Description: Establishes the "Save Women's Sports Act".

Position Statement: Support: This legislation would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Defend Religious Liberty

Breaching the Seal of the Confessional

Original Bill: [HB365](#)

Amended Bill:

Sponsor: Rep. Raychel Proudie (D)

Description: Allows the reporting of a privileged communication regarding child abuse and neglect that is made to a minister or clergy person.

Position Statement: Oppose: In an effort to address the scourge of child sexual abuse by members of the Church in the past, the state should not infringe upon the First Amendment right of priests to administer the sacrament of confession and to maintain the confidentiality of things disclosed there as required by Canon law. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Church Space/Gun Regulations

Original Bill: [HB485](#)

Amended Bill:

Sponsor: Rep. Ben Baker (R)

Description: Changes the law regarding concealed carrying of weapons by allowing firearms in churches and other places of worship with a concealed carry permit.

Position Statement: Oppose: Bill eliminates prohibition of carrying weapon(s) into church and eliminates requirement that concealed carry permit holder obtain consent of minister to carry a concealed firearm, requiring church to post signage. As part of principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and decide whether or not to allow weapons (concealed or otherwise). 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Immunity for Disclosure of Abuse by Employees

Original Bill: [HB138](#)

Amended Bill:

Sponsor: Rep. Doug Richey (R)

Description: Provides immunity from civil liability for disclosures by a charity, nonprofit organization, religious organization, or church of allegations of sexual misconduct.

Position Statement: Support: Non-profits should be immune from civil liability when disclosing to other non-profits incidents of abuse previously reported to the state, as required by law, about which the non-profit is a mandatory reporter. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Religious Liberty Protections/Campus Organizations

Original Bill: [HB136](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Hudson (R)

Description: Prohibits public institutions of higher learning from discriminating against a religious student association or denying a religious student association any benefit available to any other student association.

Position Statement: Support: College campus organizations should not be discriminated against and denied access to campus resources based on their religious beliefs or practices. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Religious Liberty/Infringements

Original Bill: [HB384](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Rasheen Aldridge (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to unlawful discriminatory practices.

Position Statement: Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria; however, the proposed legislation has potential negative implications for religious liberty, privacy rights, and rights of conscience. This bill would penalize those who believe we are created male and female, violate the privacy and safety rights of women and girls, and the conscience rights of doctors and other medical professionals. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB60](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Greg Razer (D)

Description: Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Position Statement: Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria; however, the proposed legislation has potential negative implications for religious liberty, privacy rights, and rights of conscience. This bill would penalize those who believe we are created male and female, violate the privacy and safety rights of women and girls, and the conscience rights of doctors and other medical professionals. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws

Support Educational Opportunities

Education Choice

Original Bill: [SB81](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)

Description: Authorizes parents to choose the school that their children attend and creates a tax credit for educational expenses incurred by parents whose children attend home schools.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation assists parents in choosing a school for their child that corresponds to their own moral convictions. (Catechism, par. 2229) 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/19/2023 S - Scheduled for Committee Hearing Senate-Education and Workforce Development

Education Reform

Original Bill: [SB226](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Nick Schroer (R)

Description: Authorizes a tax credit for certain education expenses.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB255](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

Description: Establishing the Education Savings Account program.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Empowerment Scholarships

Original Bill: [HB243](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Josh Hurlbert (R)

Description: Expands the availability of Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts to qualified students living in any county with at least one hundred thousand inhabitants.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB244](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Josh Hurlbert (R)

Description: Expands the definition of a qualified student for purposes of eligibility for Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB245](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Josh Hurlbert (R)

Description: Allows students who are qualified for Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts to remain eligible in years after the student accepted no grant.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB332](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Josh Hurlbert (R)

Description: Expands the definition of a qualified student for purposes of eligibility for Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB350](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Phil Christofanelli (R)

Description: Expands Missouri empowerment scholarship amounts for students with special needs.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB572](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Chris Sander (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB875](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Josh Hurlbert (R)

Description: Expands the availability of Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts to qualified students living in counties containing a city with at least thirty thousand inhabitants.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/19/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB360](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Andrew Koenig (R)

Description: Modifies provisions of the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Reform Criminal Justice

Early Parole/Older Inmates

Original Bill: [HB357](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins (D)

Description: Provides for early release from parole for certain offenders who are sixty-five years of age or older.

Position Statement: Support: Older inmates who have served much of their sentence merit a parole hearing to see if they are rehabilitated and can re-enter society. In A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice (2000), the Catholic Bishops state: "We believe that both victims and offender are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law." 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB147](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Steven Roberts (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to parole eligibility.

Position Statement: Support: Older inmates who have served much of their sentence merit a parole hearing to see if they are rehabilitated and can re-enter society. In A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice (2000), the Catholic Bishops state: "We believe that both victims and offender are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law." 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB196](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Brian Williams (D)

Description: Creates provisions relating to geriatric parole.

Position Statement: Support: Older inmates who have served much of their sentence merit a parole hearing to see if they are rehabilitated and can re-enter society. In *A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice* (2000), the Catholic Bishops state: "We believe that both victims and offender are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law." 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Expanding Mandatory Minimums

Original Bill: [HB339](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Bennie Cook (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms. Prior offenders would be required to serve a minimum of 50% of their most recent sentence.

Position Statement: Oppose: Mandatory minimum sentences replace a judge's discretion in sentencing with rigid formulas, which do not always serve the purpose of punishment for crimes. Adding additional offenses for which minimum sentences must be given moves Missouri in the wrong direction and places additional pressure on Missouri's already overcrowded prisons. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB438](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Barry Hovis (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms. Establishes mandatory minimum sentences for all non-drug felonies for prior offenders.

Position Statement: Oppose: Mandatory minimum sentences replace a judge's discretion in sentencing with rigid formulas, which do not always serve the purpose of punishment for crimes. Adding additional offenses for which minimum sentences must be given moves Missouri in the wrong direction and places additional pressure on Missouri's already overcrowded prisons. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Expungement

Original Bill: [HB352](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Phil Christofanelli (R)

Description: Establishes provisions relating to expungement.

Position Statement: Support: Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB753](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Justin Hicks (R)

Description: Establishes provisions relating to automatic expungement for certain cases.

Position Statement: Support: Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/11/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB347](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Curtis Trent (R)

Description: Creates provisions relating to expungement.

Position Statement: Support: Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB36](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Brian Williams (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to expungement.

Position Statement: Support: Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/12/2023 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB371](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Karla May (D)

Description: Creates provisions relating to expungement.

Position Statement: Support: Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Gain Time for Good Behavior

Original Bill: [HB372](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to good time credit for offenders committed to the department of corrections.

Position Statement: Support: Inmates serving a term of years should be provided gain time for good behavior as a reward and an incentive. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB382](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Rasheen Aldridge (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to good time credit for offenders committed to the department of corrections.

Position Statement: Support: Inmates serving a term of years should be provided gain time for good behavior as a reward and an incentive. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Parole Requirements

Original Bill: [SB153](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Curtis Trent (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms.

Position Statement: Support: To further the rehabilitative goal of criminal justice, this bill would provide incentives for incarcerated individuals to receive education and job training that they otherwise might not have the opportunity to receive as a requirement for parole. Allows those released from prison to more easily reenter society. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Requiring Mandatory Minimums

Original Bill: [HB56](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Ron Copeland (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms.

Position Statement: Oppose: Mandatory minimum sentences replace a judge's discretion in sentencing with rigid formulas, which do not always serve the purpose of punishment for crimes. Adding additional offenses for which minimum sentences must be given moves Missouri in the wrong direction and places additional pressure on Missouri's already overcrowded prisons. 01/22/21

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Wrongful Convictions/Compensation

Original Bill: [HB113](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Mark Sharp (D)

Description: Establishes provisions relating to restitution for individuals found to be actually innocent through any evidentiary method.

Position Statement: Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation increases the compensation already provided under current law. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/05/2023 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB146](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Steven Roberts (D)

Description: Creates provisions relating to compensation for wrongful convictions.

Position Statement: Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation increases the compensation already provided under current law. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB253](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Brian Williams (D)

Description: Creates a civil action awarding damages for wrongful convictions.

Position Statement: Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation increases the compensation already provided under current law. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB446](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to restitution for individuals who are actually innocent.

Position Statement: Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation increases the compensation already provided under current law. 01/13/23

Last Action: 01/04/2023 S - Read First Time
