



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Vetoes Help for Hungry, Women in Crisis Pregnancies

July 9, 2014 JEFFERSON CITY, MO—The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) is calling on the Missouri General Assembly to override Governor Nixon’s veto of legislation to provide assistance to the hungry and to women in crisis pregnancies.

The legislation, HB 1132, proposed modest increases of \$500,000 for each of three tax credits: the pregnancy resource credit would have been increased from \$2 million to \$2.5 million; the maternity home credit increased from \$2 million to \$2.5 million; and the food pantry credit increased from \$1.25 million to \$1.75 million.

The legislation was sponsored by State Representative Kevin Engler (R-Farmington), while Senator Gary Romine (R-Farmington) handled the legislation in the Missouri Senate. It passed both chambers of the Missouri General Assembly by wide margins: 121 to 25 in the House and 30 to 1 in the Senate.

In his veto message, Governor Nixon indicated he wanted to see reform of Missouri’s 60 plus tax credit programs. He complained that they cost too much and reduced funding for other state services.

Mike Hoey, the executive director for the MCC, said he agreed that there was a need for tax credit reform “but real reform would preserve the tax credits that work and revise or eliminate those that don’t. The Governor is looking for savings from the wrong tax credits.”

Hoey noted that the historic preservation credit has a cap of \$140 million annually. It is the largest tax credit of its kind in the nation. A slice of this credit benefits investors and brokers instead of being used to rehabilitate historic buildings, according to a recent state audit.

In contrast, even with passage of HB 1132, no more than \$6.75 million a year may be claimed in total for the three credits the governor is concerned about. Hoey noted that these credits assist some of Missouri’s most vulnerable citizens.

“The governor’s math is correct so far as it goes,” Hoey said, “but some context is in order.” The tax credit expansion will cost \$1.5 million, but the governor proposed a state budget that included over \$9 billion in state general revenue.

“We will be working with legislators of both parties to override this veto so that these programs can continue to provide vital assistance to the poor and vulnerable of our state,” Hoey said.

The Bishops of Missouri, speaking together on matters of public policy, form the Missouri Catholic Conference

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