



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislation Proposed to Extend Abortion Waiting Period to 72-hours

January 28, 2014, JEFFERSON CITY, MO—Legislation to extend the current waiting period before having an abortion had the support of many pro-life advocates this week during a committee hearing Monday evening. The Senate Committee on Judiciary Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence heard testimony on SB 519 sponsored by Senator David Sater, (R-Cassville), which would extend the current waiting period for having an abortion from 24-hours to 72-hours.

“A patient needs to have the time to think about this life changing decision, that is the intent of this legislation—to allow for that woman to think through her decision and weigh all of her options,” said Senator Sater.

Senator Sater, as well as many other advocates for this legislation, made the point that a person does not go to a doctor for an operation and receive that operation in the same day. He compared the additional time to allowing patients time to consider if they want to go through with a surgery, such a knee replacement.

Tyler McClay, general council for the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), testified in strong support of SB 519. McClay focused on the benefit of the waiting period being an extended period of time for a woman to reflect on her decision before going through with the procedure. He also highlighted the fact that a woman must wait for 48-hours after a birth to make the decision to put her child up for adoption.

Others testifying in support were Sam Lee with Campaign life Missouri, Susan Klein with Missouri Right to Life, Joe Ortwerth with the Missouri Family Policy Council, and Kerry Messer with the Missouri Baptist Convention and Americans United for Life.

This legislation would place Missouri in line with Utah and South Dakota, states that have both passed similar 72-hour waiting provisions recently.

Two identical pieces of legislation were also heard in the House Committee on Health Policy last week. House Bill 1307 and HB 1313, sponsored by Representative Kevin Elmer (R-Nixa) and Representative Keith Fredrick (R-Rolla), respectively.

The legislation faced fierce opposition from abortions rights advocates during hearings in both the House and the Senate, and is expected to face opposition during the course of the legislative session.

No further action has been taken on any of the proposals at this time.

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