



News Release

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Missouri Senate Approves Tax Credits for Pregnancy Resource Centers, Food Pantries, and Children in Crisis Programs

JANUARY 31, 2013 JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Missouri Senate has given approval to legislation that re-establishes expired tax credits that assist pregnancy resource centers, food pantries and services to children in crisis. The Senate action took place on Thursday, January 31 on a vote of 32-0.

“Let us get these (tax credits) reinstated for these wonderful, benevolent, non-profit charities, doing great work, just as soon as we can,” said Senator Bob Dixon (R-Springfield), sponsor of SB 20.

In a floor letter sent to the Senate on January 28, the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) noted its support for Senate Bill 20.

“The Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) Tax Credit ... is a cost-effective way for the State of Missouri to support women experiencing crisis pregnancies by providing pregnancy testing, counseling, emotional and material support and other services to assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term,” the letter stated.

Mike Hoey, executive director of the MCC, hailed passage of the tax credit legislation. “This is a sea-change from last year when we had so much trouble getting the legislature to move forward on these benevolent credits. We are very grateful for the Missouri Senate’s action. These programs save the lives of unborn children, assist women in crisis pregnancies, and help some of the poorest people in our state.”

There are 56 pregnancy resource centers across the state. Many provide free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds. The centers also provide abstinence education, refer clients to other community services and offer counseling.

When the tax credits expired on August 27, 2012, centers began to notice a drop in donations. Many centers encouraged donations before the credits expired, and while they may have seen an increase in donations before then, they have since dropped. Birthright Counseling of St. Louis reported a 13 percent drop in donations from the same time period in 2011.

Dixon said the bill was generally well received and broadly supported. He noted that the passage of the bill will have a positive effect on many Missouri residents.

“The value of these ‘benevolent’ tax credits is readily apparent. The amount of credits redeemed may be small

in terms of the state budget, but they have a tremendous impact in terms of lives saved or improved. Allowing these tax credits to expire does not save taxpayers one dime in the long run. With its swift action, the senate has demonstrated its strong support for this ‘ounce of prevention’,” Dixon said.

The bill will now go to the Missouri House of Representatives for that body’s consideration.