



Legislative Wrap-up

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FACE Act Weaponized Against Pro- life Advocates

Pro-abortion Ballot Initiative Update

New Podcasts



2024 Legislative Wrap-up

A NEW Good News!

Welcome to our new look and revised publication schedule. In order to give you the best in-depth coverage and be good stewards of our resources, the MCC Good News will now be published twice a year.

Good News will also be available in Spanish on our website. For printed copies in Spanish, please contact communications@mocatholic.org.



The Missouri Catholic
Advocacy Network

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The Missouri House of Representatives and Senate recently wrapped up their work on the 2024 legislative session. The Senate finished its year in much of the same way it began: with a filibuster, personal attacks, and dysfunction. While Republicans looked to pass initiative petition reform the final week of session, Democrats staged a multi-day filibuster to keep the proposal from advancing. Although many had speculated all session that Senate Republicans would use a procedural maneuver—"calling the previous question"—to end debate and force a vote on IP reform, Republicans could not find the necessary number of senators to do so. This further intensified the discord between Senate Republican factions that has marked the last couple of legislative sessions. This discord ultimately led to Senate leadership adjourning for the year minutes after gaveling in on the last day of session.

This session saw a record-low number of bills pass — beating the prior low mark set in the COVID-shortened session of 2020. Once again, lawmakers failed to pass legislation addressing the availability and affordability of childcare, which was a priority of Governor Parson.

While fewer bills than ever were passed, some significant MCC priorities and bills of interest did make it across the finish line. SB 727 expands Missouri's school choice scholarship program. Legislators also passed HB 2634 to block Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood and its affiliates. In this issue of Good News, you can see how your legislators voted on these two bills.

Once again, the MCC staff wishes to express our gratitude to our network for your faithfulness in following the legislative process with us this year.

Vote descriptions

EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

SB 727 expands Missouri's school choice scholarship program, MOScholars, statewide. The program provides state tax credits for contributions to approved, non-profit Educational Assistance Organizations (EAOs). These EAOs use the contributions to award scholarships to qualifying Missouri students. SB 727 expands eligibility criteria and increases the maximum tax credits from \$50 million to \$75 million per year.

ABORTION FUNDING/ PROHIBITION

HB 2634 prohibits any abortion facility or its affiliates from receiving public funds. Federal and state law currently prohibit public funds from being used for abortion. HB 2634 expands that prohibition by denying an abortion provider Medicaid reimbursement for non-abortion health care services. Missouri is now the fourth state to ban Medicaid reimbursements to Planned Parenthood.

2024 MCC Votes of Interest

Senate Votes

Vote 1 – Senate Third Read and Passed to expand the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. (SS#2 SCS SB 727 Senate Third Read and Passed, 3/14/2024)
MCC Position: Support

Vote 2 – Senate Third Read and Passed to remove abortion providers and their affiliates from the Missouri Medicaid program. (SS#2 HCS HB 2634 Senate Third Read and Passed, 4/9/2024)
MCC Position: Support

Voting key:

Yes – Y

No – N

AL – Absent with leave

A – Absent

Find your legislators

- Enter your address at www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup
- Or call the MCC at (573) 635-7239

Dist.	Legislator	1	2
17	Sen. Lauren Arthur (D-Kansas City)	N	N
25	Sen. Jason Bean (R-Holcomb)	Y	Y
1	Sen. Doug Beck (D-St. Louis)	N	N
6	Sen. Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City)	Y	Y
12	Sen. Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe)	Y	Y
31	Sen. Rick Brattin (R-Harrisonville)	Y	Y
26	Sen. Ben Brown (R-Washington)	Y	Y
16	Sen. Justin Brown (R-Rolla)	AL	AL
32	Sen. Jill Carter (R-Granby)	A	Y
8	Sen. Mike Cierpiot (R-Lee's Summit)	Y	Y
22	Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold)	Y	Y
28	Sen. Sandy Crawford (R-Buffalo)	Y	Y
23	Sen. Bill Eigel (R-St. Peters)	Y	Y
33	Sen. Karla Eslinger (R-Wasola)	Y	Y
10	Sen. Travis Fitzwater (R-Fulton)	Y	Y
3	Sen. Elaine Gannon (R-De Soto)	AL	Y
21	Sen. Denny Hoskins (R-Warrensburg)	Y	Y
30	Sen. Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield)	AL	Y
15	Sen. Andrew Koenig (R-Manchester)	Y	Y
34	Sen. Tony Luetkemeyer (R-Parkville)	Y	Y
4	Sen. Karla May (D-St. Louis)	A	N
24	Sen. Tracy McCreery (D-St. Louis)	N	N
29	Sen. Mike Moon (R-Halltown)	N	Y
13	Sen. Angela Mosley (D-Florissant)	N	N
18	Sen. Cindy O'Laughlin (R-Shelbina)	Y	Y
7	Sen. Greg Razer (D-Kansas City)	N	N
27	Sen. Holly Rehder (R-Scott City)	Y	Y
11	Sen. John Rizzo (D-Kansas City)	N	N
5	Sen. Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis)	N	N
19	Sen. Caleb Rowden (R-Columbia)	Y	Y
2	Sen. Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon)	Y	Y
20	Sen. Curtis Trent (R-Springfield)	Y	Y
9	Sen. Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City)	N	N
14	Sen. Brian Williams (D-St. Louis)	N	N

2024 MCC Votes of Interest

House Votes

Vote 1 – House Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed to expand the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. (SS#2 SCS SB 727 House Truly Agreed and Finally Passed, 4/18/2024)

MCC Position: Support

Vote 2 – House Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed to remove abortion providers and their affiliates from the Missouri Medicaid program. (SS#2 HCS HB 2634 House Truly Agreed and Finally Passed, 4/24/2024)

MCC Position: Support

Voting key:

Yes – Y

No – N

AL – Absent with leave

A – Absent

Dist.	Legislator	1	2
86	Rep. Joe Adams (D-University City)	N	N
17	Rep. Bill Allen (R-Kansas City)	Y	Y
113	Rep. Phil Amato (R-Arnold)	Y	Y
76	Rep. Marlon Anderson (D-St. Louis)	N	N
71	Rep. LaDonna Appelbaum (D-St. Louis)	N	N
153	Rep. Darrell Atchison (R-Williamsville)	AL	Y
14	Rep. Ashley Aune (D-Kansas City)	N	N
160	Rep. Ben Baker (R-Neosho)	Y	Y
119	Rep. Brad Banderman (R-Saint Clair)	Y	Y
69	Rep. Gretchen Bangert (D-Florissant)	N	N
82	Rep. Donna Baringer (D-St. Louis)	N	N
28	Rep. Jerome Barnes (D-Raytown)	N	N
152	Rep. Hardy Billington (R-Poplar Bluff)	Y	Y
137	Rep. John Black (R-Marshfield)	N	Y
26	Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove (D-Kansas City)	N	AL
157	Rep. Mitch Boggs (R-La Russell)	Y	Y
111	Rep. Gary Bonacker (R-House Springs)	N	Y
79	Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D-St. Louis)	N	N
162	Rep. Bob Bromley (R-Carl Junction)	N	Y
16	Rep. Chris Brown (R-Kansas City)	Y	Y
149	Rep. Donnie Brown (R-New Madrid)	AL	AL
87	Rep. Paula Brown (D-St. Louis)	N	N
27	Rep. Richard Brown (D-Kansas City)	N	N
115	Rep. Cyndi Buchheit-Courtway (R-Festus)	Y	Y
148	Rep. Jamie Burger (R-Benton)	Y	Y
19	Rep. Ingrid Burnett (D-Kansas City)	AL	N
92	Rep. Michael Burton (D-Lakeshire)	N	N
3	Rep. Danny Busick (R-Newton)	N	AL
81	Rep. Steve Butz (D-St. Louis)	Y	AL
63	Rep. Tricia Byrnes (R-Wentzville)	Y	AL

Dist.	Legislator	1	2
97	Rep. David Casteel (R-High Ridge)	Y	Y
137	Rep. Darin Chappell (R-Rogersville)	AL	Y
96	Rep. Brad Christ (R-St. Louis)	Y	Y
2	Rep. Mazzie Christensen (R-Hamilton)	N	Y
105	Rep. Phil Christofanelli (R-St. Peters)	Y	Y
72	Rep. Doug Clemens (D-St. Ann)	N	N
32	Rep. Jeff Coleman (R-Grain Valley)	Y	Y
77	Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins (D-St. Louis)	N	N
143	Rep. Bennie Cook (R-Houston)	Y	Y
120	Rep. Ron Copeland (R-Salem)	N	Y
29	Rep. Aaron Crossley (D-Independence)	N	N
158	Rep. Scott Cupps (R-Shell Knob)	Y	Y
130	Rep. Bishop Davidson (R-Republic)	Y	Y
56	Rep. Michael Davis (R-Kansas City)	Y	Y
159	Rep. Dirk Deaton (R-Noel)	Y	Y
125	Rep. Dane Diehl (R-Butler)	Y	Y
144	Rep. Chris Dinkins (R-Lesterville)	Y	Y
91	Rep. Jo Doll (D-St. Louis)	N	N
36	Rep. Anthony Ealy (D-Grandview)	N	N
154	Rep. David Evans (R-West Plains)	AL	Y
10	Rep. Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph)	N	Y
1	Rep. Jeff Farnan (R-Stanberry)	AL	Y
135	Rep. Betsy Fogle (D-Springfield)	N	N
85	Rep. Yolonda Fountain Henderson (D-St. Louis)	N	N
145	Rep. Rick Francis (R-Perryville)	N	Y
62	Rep. Sherri Gallick (R-Belton)	Y	Y
140	Rep. Jamie Gragg (R-Ozark)	Y	Y
75	Rep. Alan Gray (D-Blackjack)	AL	N
51	Rep. Kurtis Gregory (R-Marshall)	Y	Y
60	Rep. Dave Griffith (R-Jefferson City)	Y	Y
43	Rep. Kent Haden (R-Mexico)	N	Y
55	Rep. Mike Haffner (R-Pleasant Hill)	Y	Y
58	Rep. Willard Haley (R-Eldon)	N	Y
121	Rep. Bill Hardwick (R-Waynesville)	N	Y
65	Rep. Wendy Hausman (R-St. Peters)	Y	Y
136	Rep. Stephanie Hein (D-Springfield)	N	N
117	Rep. Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre)	Y	Y
108	Rep. Justin Hicks (R-Lake St. Louis)	Y	Y
103	Rep. Dave Hinman (R-St. Peters)	Y	Y
54	Rep. Dan Houx (R-Warrensburg)	Y	Y
146	Rep. Barry Hovis (R-Whitewater)	AL	Y
138	Rep. Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair)	Y	Y
8	Rep. Josh Hurlbert (R-Smithville)	Y	Y
35	Rep. Keri Ingle (D-Lee's Summit)	N	N

2024 MCC Votes of Interest

Dist.	Legislator	1	2
12	Rep. Jamie Johnson (D-Kansas City)	N	N
23	Rep. Michael Johnson (D-Kansas City)	N	N
88	Rep. Holly Jones (R-Eureka)	N	Y
41	Rep. Doyle Justus (R-Troy)	Y	Y
126	Rep. Jim Kalberloh (R-Lowry City)	Y	Y
101	Rep. Ben Keathley (R-Chesterfield)	Y	Y
127	Rep. Ann Kelley (R-Lamar)	N	Y
141	Rep. Hannah Kelly (R-Mountian Grove)	Y	Y
142	Rep. Jeff Knight (R-Lebanon)	N	Y
98	Rep. Deb Lavender (D-Manchester)	N	N
6	Rep. Ed Lewis (R-Moberly)	Y	Y
25	Rep. Patty Lewis (D-Kansas City)	N	N
38	Rep. Chris Lonsdale (R-Liberty)	Y	AL
64	Rep. Tony Lovasco (R-O'Fallon)	Y	Y
99	Rep. Ian Mackey (D-St. Louis)	N	N
50	Rep. Doug Mann (D-Columbia)	N	N
109	Rep. Kyle Marquart (R-Washington)	N	Y
107	Rep. Mark Matthiesen (R-O'Fallon)	Y	Y
124	Rep. Don Mayhew (R-Crocker)	Y	Y
7	Rep. Peggy McGaugh (R-Carrollton)	N	Y
118	Rep. Mike McGirl (R-Potosi)	Y	Y
20	Rep. Aaron McMullen (R-Independence)	Y	Y
80	Rep. Peter Merideth (D-St. Louis)	N	N
151	Rep. Herman Morse (R-Dexter)	N	Y
68	Rep. Jay Mosley (D-Florissant)	N	N
94	Rep. Jim Murphy (R-St. Louis)	Y	Y
42	Rep. Jeff Myers (R-Warrenton)	Y	Y
67	Rep. Chantelle Nickson-Clark (D-Florissant)	Y	N
15	Rep. Maggie Nurrenbern (D-Kansas City)	N	N
95	Rep. Michael O'Donnell (R-St. Louis)	Y	Y
100	Rep. Philip Oehlerking (R-Ballwin)	Y	Y
131	Rep. Bill Owen (R-Springfield)	Y	Y
150	Rep. Cameron Parker (R-Campbell)	Y	Y
30	Rep. Jonathan Patterson (R-Lee's Summit)	Y	Y
40	Rep. Chad Perkins (R-Bowling Green)	Y	Y
122	Rep. Tara Peters (R-Rolla)	Y	Y
90	Rep. Barbara Phifer (D-St. Louis)	N	N
47	Rep. Adrian Plank (D-Columbia)	N	N
89	Rep. Dean Plocher (R-St. Louis)	Y	Y
52	Rep. Brad Pollitt (R-Sedalia)	Y	Y
13	Rep. Sean Pouche (R-Kansas City)	Y	Y
73	Rep. Raychel Proudie (D-St. Louis)	N	N
132	Rep. Crystal Quade (D-Springfield)	N	N
57	Rep. Rodger Reedy (R-Windsor)	Y	Y

Dist.	Legislator	1	2
112	Rep. Renee Reuter (R-Imperial)	Y	Y
39	Rep. Doug Richey (R-Excelsior Springs)	Y	Y
5	Rep. Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal)	Y	Y
134	Rep. Alex Riley (R-Springfield)	Y	Y
161	Rep. Lane Roberts (R-Joplin)	N	Y
33	Rep. Chris Sander (R-Lone Jack)	Y	Y
61	Rep. Bruce Sassmann (R-Bland)	N	Y
21	Rep. Robert Sauls (D-Independence)	AL	N
69	Rep. Adam Schnelting (R-St. Charles)	Y	Y
49	Rep. Jim Schulte (R-New Bloomfield)	Y	Y
105	Rep. Adam Schwadron (R-St. Charles)	Y	Y
156	Rep. Brian Seitz (R-Branson)	Y	Y
37	Rep. Mark Sharp (D-Kansas City)	N	N
4	Rep. Greg Sharpe (R-Ewing)	N	Y
11	Rep. Brenda Shields (R-Saint Joseph)	N	Y
163	Rep. Cody Smith (R-Carthage)	Y	Y
46	Rep. David Smith (D-Columbia)	N	N
155	Rep. Travis Smith (R-Dora)	Y	Y
110	Rep. Justin Sparks (R-Wildwood)	Y	Y
31	Rep. Dan Stacy (R-Blue Springs)	Y	Y
45	Rep. Kathy Steinhoff (D-Columbia)	N	N
128	Rep. Mike Stephens (R-Bolivar)	Y	Y
133	Rep. Melanie Stinnett (R-Springfield)	Y	Y
34	Rep. Kemp Strickler (D-Lee's Summit)	N	N
84	Rep. Del Taylor (D-St. Louis)	N	N
48	Rep. Tim Taylor (R-Bunceton)	Y	Y
66	Rep. Marlene Terry (D-St. Louis)	Y	N
123	Rep. Lisa Thomas (R-Lake Ozark)	Y	Y
53	Rep. Terry Thompson (R-Lexington)	N	Y
139	Rep. Bob Titus (R-Billings)	Y	Y
44	Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch (R-Hallsville)	Y	Y
83	Rep. Sarah Unsicker (D-Shrewsbury)	N	AL
9	Rep. Dean Van Schoiack (R-Savannah)	N	Y
59	Rep. Rudy Veit (R-Wardsville)	AL	Y
147	Rep. John Voss (R-Cape Girardeau)	Y	Y
114	Rep. Ken Waller (R-Herculaneum)	AL	Y
93	Rep. Bridget Walsh Moore (D-St. Louis)	N	N
24	Rep. Emily Weber (D-Kansas City)	N	N
102	Rep. Richard West (R-Wentzville)	Y	Y
106	Rep. Travis Wilson (R-St. Charles)	Y	Y
74	Rep. Kevin Windham (D-Hillsdale)	N	N
18	Rep. Eric Woods (D-Kansas City)	N	N
116	Rep. Dale Wright (R-Farmington)	N	AL
22	Rep. Yolanda Young (D-Kansas City)	N	N

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION FILED IN 2024

Fueled by a dire border crisis of major political implications, over a dozen bills related to immigration policy were filed during the 2024 Missouri legislative session, most of them aimed at criminalizing undocumented migrants that commit low-level misdemeanors or infractions.

Among the most notable ones were: HB 2523 (Rep. Billington-R) and HB 2844 (Rep. Hudson-R), which attempted to create the offense of “trespass by an illegal alien”, making any undocumented migrant who had committed a Class C misdemeanor (e.g. exceeding the posted speed limit) guilty of a Class C felony (e.g. sexual abuse in the 1st degree), punishable by 3-10 years in prison, or a Class E

felony (e.g. manslaughter in the 2nd degree), punishable by up to 4 years in prison, respectively; and SB 1372 (Sen. Eigel-R), which would have barred undocumented students from attending college in Missouri, among other provisions.

The very few bills that attempted to favor the inclusion of migrants in the state were not even heard in committee; namely, one that would have prohibited landlords from threatening to disclose information relating to the immigration status of a tenant (HB 1844, Rep. Unsicker-D) and other that would have made voter registration applications available not only in English, but also in Spanish and Braille (HB 1598, Rep. Bosley-D).

The Catholic Church teaches that “the more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin” and that “public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him” (Catechism, n. 2241). Even though the Church also acknowledges that countries have the right to regulate their borders and to control immigration, they must always do so with justice and mercy.

Although there were a large number of immigration bills filed in 2024, none of them ultimately passed out of the House or Senate.

FACE ACT WEAPONIZED AGAINST PRO-LIFE ADVOCATES

The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act ("FACE") Act prohibits threats of force, obstruction and property damage intended to interfere with abortion clinics. Though it was originally passed in 1994, the FACE Act has only recently been used to punish pro-life advocates who protest outside abortion centers, drawing comparisons to UK laws that have led to the arrests of protestors for silently praying outside abortion clinics.

Joan Andrews Bell, a 76-year-old Catholic and pro-life activist, has been sentenced to over two years in prison for her involvement in a “rescue” at a Washington, D.C., abortion clinic. Three other activists — Jean Marshall, 74, Jonathan Darnel, 42, and Herb Geraghty, 27 — were sentenced on June 12, 2024. Marshall received a 24-month sentence, Darnel was sentenced to 34 months, and Geraghty received 27 months.

According to the Department of Justice, the three activists engaged in a conspiracy to create a blockade of an abortion clinic. News of this sentencing comes nearly nine months after Bell and eight other pro-life activists were convicted on similar charges for their involvement in an October 2020 rescue at the Washington Surgi-Clinic.

Critics say the language within the FACE Act is not specific enough to warrant the degree to which it has been used to press criminal charges.

In January, six defendants were each convicted of a felony conspiracy against rights and a FACE Act offense for attempting to block an abortion clinic in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. The government said in a press release



that the defendants — Chester Gallagher, Heather Itoni, Calvin Zastrow, Coleman Boyd, Paul Vaughn, and Dennis Green — had “engaged in a conspiracy to prevent the clinic employees from providing, and patients from receiving, reproductive health services.” The defendants will be sentenced on July 2 and face up to a maximum of 10 and a half years in prison, three years of supervised release, and fines of up to \$260,000.

“This was a peaceful demonstration by entirely peaceable citizens — filled with prayer, hymn-singing,

FACE ACT (cont.)

and worship — oriented toward persuading expecting mothers not to abort their babies,” said Thomas More Society lawyer Steve Crampton. “Unfortunately, the Biden Department of Justice decided to characterize Paul Vaughn’s peaceful actions as a felony ‘conspiracy against rights,’ to intimidate and punish Paul and other pro-life people and people of faith.”

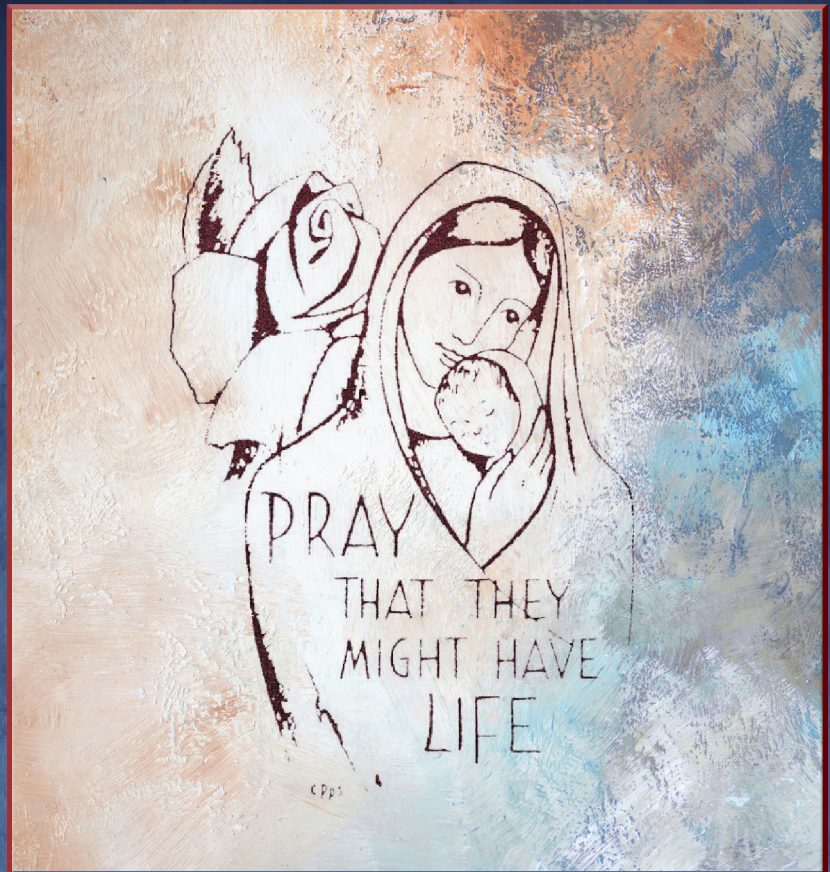
The Thomas More Society is expected to appeal Vaughn’s conviction. Much like Vaughn and others charged under the FACE Act, pro-life protestors who demonstrate at abortion clinics now face an uncertain future.

PRO-ABORTION BALLOT INITIATIVE UPDATE

On May 3, representatives of Missourians for Constitutional Freedom submitted over 380,000 signatures to the Secretary of State seeking to put a pro-abortion constitutional amendment on the ballot. Petitions proposing constitutional amendments must be signed by eight percent of legal voters in any six of the eight congressional districts to make it on the ballot.

The Secretary of State’s Office has delivered the signatures to local election authorities for verification. Once signatures are verified, the Secretary of State will determine whether there are enough valid signatures to place the petition on the ballot for the next general election.

The Missouri Catholic Conference will continue to monitor the progress of the ballot initiative. As the signatures are verified, we encourage all Catholics and people of good will to continue to pray that this initiative is ultimately not successful.



Prayer to Defeat the Missouri Pro-Abortion Ballot Initiative

**Dear Gracious God,
By Your hand we received the gift of life at the moment of conception.
Through the working of the Holy Spirit, You call us to live out our faith even in the midst of a troubled world. You call us to proclaim the truth of the Gospel of Life and Your love to all around us.
We ask you to bless us as we share Your teachings on the dignity of all human life, especially the preborn and their mothers.
Give us strength of heart and mind. Do not allow us to be discouraged as we make our voices heard to proclaim Your teachings that are now being threatened.
Give us a clear voice as we work to overcome the trial before us for the sake of all people in Missouri.
We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



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NEW MCC FROM THE CAPITOL PODCASTS

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Jamie Morris, the MCC's Executive Director and General Counsel, talks with Rev. Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., about the ethical concerns and Church teaching on In Vitro Fertilization (IVF).

Fr. Pacholczyk earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.



Jamie Morris, the MCC's Executive Director and General Counsel, recently spoke to Jimmy Akin about the lack of civility in politics.

Mr. Akin is a senior apologist at Catholic Answers and the host of Jimmy Akin's Mysterious World. He is the author of several books including *The Bible is a Catholic Book* and *Teaching with Authority: How to Cut Through Doctrinal Confusion & Understand What the Church Really Says*.