

MCC Positions and Progress Report

MCC position bills pending in 2024 Missouri General Assembly ~ 2/2/2024

Protect Human Life

Abortion Abolition

Original Bill: [SB775](#) Amended Bill: Sponsor: Sen. Mike Moon (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to the protection of unborn children.

Position Statement: Oppose: Through its ministries and advocacy, the Church supports efforts to protect the unborn and to address the underlying social causes for abortion by expanding care and resources available to mothers. And for those women suffering from the pain of an abortion, the Church offers healing and hope through its Project Rachel Ministries. Legal efforts to punish women after an abortion are inconsistent with these fundamental principles and with the history of the pro-life movement. The Missouri Catholic Conference opposes any legislation that would seek to criminalize a woman who has an abortion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/09/2024 S - Referred to Senate-Health and Welfare

Abortion Drug Mandate

Original Bill: [HB2121](#) 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) 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Abortion Funding/Prohibition

Original Bill: [HB1563](#) Amended Bill: Sponsor: Rep. Ann Kelley (R)

Description: Prohibits public funds from being expended to any abortion facility, or affiliate or associate thereof, including for MO HealthNet reimbursement, and modifies 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing-Rules-Regulatory Oversight

Original Bill: [HB2175](#) Amended Bill: Sponsor: Rep. Adam Schnelting (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to health care.

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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB1168](#) **Amended Bill:** SCS SBs 1168 & 810 **Sponsor:** Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 S - Reported Do Pass as substituted

Original Bill: [SB810](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Nick Schroer (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to eligible 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/31/2024 S - Superseded by SB 1168

Original Bill: [SB916](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Denny Hoskins (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to eligible 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate-Health and Welfare

Abortion on Demand

Original Bill: [HB2038](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Emily Weber (D)

Description: Establishes the "Respect People's Abortion Decisions Act"

Position Statement: Oppose: Legislation seeks to overturn pro-life protections currently found in Missouri law by the use of misleading rhetoric on "reproductive choices." 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB1135](#) **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." 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate-Health and Welfare

Death Penalty Repeal

Original Bill: [HB1780](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Chad Perkins (R)

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) 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB1846](#) **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)
01/12/24
Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB1882](#) **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)
01/12/24
Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Domestic Violence/Protection

Original Bill: [HB1819](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Del Taylor (D)
Description: Prohibits certain individuals from possessing a firearm due to domestic violence.
Position Statement: Support: Legislation provides additional protection to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting the possession of guns by individuals subject to a full order of protection. 01/12/24
Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Referred to House committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety

Original Bill: [HB2336](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Maggie Nurrenbern (D)
Description: Prohibits certain individuals from possessing a firearm due to domestic violence.
Position Statement: Support: Legislation provides additional protection to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting the possession of guns by individuals subject to a full order of protection. 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/10/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB2488](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Michael Burton (D)
Description: Prohibits certain individuals from possessing a firearm due to domestic violence.
Position Statement: Support: Legislation provides additional protection to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting the possession of guns by individuals subject to a full order of protection. 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/23/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB1033](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Doug Beck (D)
Description: Modifies provisions relating to unlawful possession of firearms.
Position Statement: Support: Legislation provides additional protection to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting the possession of guns by individuals subject to a full order of protection. 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws

Original Bill: [SB913](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Tracy McCreery (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to unlawful possession of firearms.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation provides additional protection to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting the possession of guns by individuals subject to a full order of protection. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Safety

No Right to Abortion in Constitution

Original Bill: [HJR89](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Justin Sparks (R)

Description: Proposes a constitutional amendment regarding the right to life.

Position Statement: Support: Support laws that protect the right to life and clarify that a "right to abortion" is not found in the Missouri Constitution. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 H - Referred to House-Transportation Accountability

Pregnancy Resource Centers/Tax Credits

Original Bill: [SJR87](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Andrew Koenig (R)

Description: Creates provisions relating to abortion and assistance to pregnant women and families.

Position Statement: Support: The pregnancy resource center tax credit encourages charitable giving to programs that provide essential assistance to women facing crisis pregnancies. 01/22/21

Last Action: 01/31/2024 S - Introduced and Read First Time

Right to Abortion in Constitution

Original Bill: [HJR105](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Crystal Quade (D)

Description: Proposes a constitutional amendment to establish a "Right to Abortion Care".

Position Statement: Oppose: We oppose all efforts to enshrine a "right to abortion" in laws or in the Missouri Constitution. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HJR106](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Peter Merideth (D)

Description: Proposes a constitutional amendment relating to the right to medical freedom.

Position Statement: Oppose: We oppose all efforts to enshrine a "right to abortion" in laws or in the Missouri Constitution. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Shackling of Pregnant Offenders/Prohibition

Original Bill: [HB1777](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Chad Perkins (R)

Description: Creates provisions relating to the treatment of pregnant prisoners by county and city jails.

Position Statement: Support: Missouri law restricting the shackling of pregnant offenders does not currently apply to counties and municipalities. Shackling pregnant offenders demeans the dignity of the human person and can place the health of pregnant women and their unborn children at risk, and the Missouri law should be applied on a state-wide basis. 01/28/22

Last Action: 01/31/2024 H - Public hearing completed

Advance Social and Economic Justice for All

Child Care Tax Credit

Original Bill: [HB1488](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brenda Shields (R)

Description: Authorizes the "Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Act", the "Employer-Provided Child Care Assistance Tax Credit Act", and the "Child Care Providers Tax Credit", relating to tax credits for child care.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation would help increase the affordability and availability of childcare to help working families. The Church has recognized the connection between work and family. As Pope St. John Paul II stated, "Work constitutes a foundation for the formation of family life."
01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 H - Reported Do Pass

Original Bill: [HB2183](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Wendy Hausman (R)

Description: Authorizes a property tax exemption for certain property used for child care, contingent upon passage and approval by the voters of a constitutional amendment permitting a property tax exemption.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation would help increase the affordability and availability of childcare to help working families. The Church has recognized the connection between work and family. As Pope St. John Paul II stated, "Work constitutes a foundation for the formation of family life."
01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Referred to House committee on Children and Families

Original Bill: [HB2529](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Hannah Kelly (R)

Description: Modifies and establishes provisions relating to child care.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation would help increase the affordability and availability of childcare to help working families. The Church has recognized the connection between work and family. As Pope St. John Paul II stated, "Work constitutes a foundation for the formation of family life."
01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Referred to House committee on Children and Families

Original Bill: [SB742](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Lauren Arthur (D)

Description: Authorizes tax credits for child care.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation would help increase the affordability and availability of childcare to help working families. The Church has recognized the connection between work and family. As Pope St. John Paul II stated, "Work constitutes a foundation for the formation of family life."
01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Voted Do Pass

Original Bill: [SB975](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Travis Fitzwater (R)

Description: Authorizes a property tax exemption for certain property used for childcare.

Position Statement: Support: Legislation would help increase the affordability and availability of childcare to help working families. The Church has recognized the connection between work and family. As Pope St. John Paul II stated, "Work constitutes a foundation for the formation of family life."
01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Fiscal Oversight

Food Stamps/Felony Convictions

Original Bill: [HB1777](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Chad Perkins (R)

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) 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/31/2024 H - Public hearing completed

Removal of Sales Tax for Diapers/Feminine Hygiene Products

Original Bill: [HB1474](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Mark Sharp (D)

Description: Reduces the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB1579](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Maggie Nurrenbern (D)

Description: Changes the laws regarding the taxation of feminine hygiene products and diapers.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB1762](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Justin Hicks (R)

Description: Authorizes a sales tax exemption for the purchase of diapers and feminine hygiene products.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB1920](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Jo Doll (D)

Description: Authorizes a sales tax exemption for the purchase of diapers and feminine hygiene products.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB2112](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Wendy Hausman (R)

Description: Authorizes a sales tax exemption for the purchase of diapers, incontinence products, feminine hygiene products, and certain vitamins.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB2187](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Patty Lewis (D)

Description: Modifies provisions of the diaper bank tax credit and authorizes a sales tax exemption for the purchase of diapers, feminine hygiene products, & incontinence products.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB2224](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Phifer (D)

Description: Changes the laws regarding the taxation of feminine hygiene products and diapers.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB1119](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)

Description: Authorizes sales tax exemptions for certain purchases.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tax Policy

Original Bill: [SB1231](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Curtis Trent (R)

Description: Authorizes a sales tax exemption for diapers.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tax Policy

Original Bill: [SB793](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (D)

Description: Authorizes a sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene products.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/09/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tax Policy

Original Bill: [SB842](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Lauren Arthur (D)

Description: Authorizes a sales tax exemption for the purchase of diapers.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/11/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tax Policy

Original Bill: [SB858](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Karla May (D)

Description: Authorizes a sales tax exemption for certain hygiene products.

Position Statement: Support: By removing the tax on diapers and feminine hygiene products, this will help families afford items essential to the health and well-being of women and children. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/11/2024 - S - Referred to Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tax Policy

Solutions for Food Deserts

Original Bill: [SB1380](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to tax credits for improving access to food.

Position Statement: Support: This legislation offers an incentive for grocery stores to establish retail stores in underserved areas, helping to alleviate "food deserts" where fresh foods are in limited supply. Part of sharing our abundance with those in need. 02/23/22

Last Action: 01/31/2024 S - Introduced and Read First Time

Uphold and Strengthen Marriage and Family

Age Verification for Adult Content

Original Bill: [HB1426](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Mike McGirl (R)

Description: Establishes provisions relating to civil liability for publishing or distributing material harmful to minors on the internet.

Position Statement: Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing - General Laws

Original Bill: [HB1855](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Banderman (R)

Description: Establishes provisions relating to civil liability for publishing or distributing material harmful to minors on the internet.

Position Statement: Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing-General Laws

Original Bill: [HB1993](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Sherri Gallick (R)

Description: Establishes provisions relating to civil liability for publishing or distributing material harmful to minors on the internet.

Position Statement: Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing-General Laws

Original Bill: [HB2375](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Mazzie Christensen (R)

Description: Creates requirement that users must provide government-issued identification prior to viewing pornographic materials provided by commercial entities on the internet.

Position Statement: Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/11/2024 H - Read Second Time

Gender Reassignment Treatment Ban

Original Bill: [SB1185](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

Description: Removes the expiration date on certain provisions relating to gender transition.

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. "[l]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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Original Bill: [SB726](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Denny Hoskins (R)

Description: Removes the expiration date on certain provisions relating to gender transition.

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. "[l]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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/08/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Original Bill: [SB776](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Moon (R)

Description: Removes the expiration date on certain provisions relating to gender transition.

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. "[l]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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/09/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Internet Filters for Adult Content

Original Bill: [SB1084](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

Description: Creates provisions requiring filtering of obscene websites.

Position Statement: Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy, and the Environment

Re-defining Marriage in Missouri Statutes

Original Bill: [HJR121](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Michael Burton (D)

Description: Changes a valid marriage from a marriage between a man and a woman to two persons regardless of their genders.

Position Statement: Oppose: "Although the dignity of this institution [marriage] is not transparent everywhere with the same clarity, some sense of the greatness of the matrimonial union exists in all cultures. The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life." (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, par. 1603) 03/17/23

Last Action: 01/23/2024 H - Read Second Time

Sex Ed Opt Out

Original Bill: [HB1523](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Hudson (R)

Description: Changes provisions relating to student interactions 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Sex Separated Sports

Original Bill: [HB1981](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Jamie Burger (R)

Description: Modifies 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB2145](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brian Seitz (R)

Description: Removes an expiration date of provisions governing participation in athletics competitions.

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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB1246](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Holly Thompson Rehder (R)

Description: Repeals the 2027 expiration of a provision of law prohibiting students from participating on an athletic team that is 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Emerging Issues

Defend Religious Liberty

Breaching the Seal of the Confessional

Original Bill: [HB1896](#) **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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Church Space/Gun Regulations

Original Bill: [HB1708](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Adam Schnelting (R)

Description: Changes the law regarding firearm concealed carry permits.

Position Statement: Oppose in part: Provision of 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). 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/29/2024 H - Reported Do Pass

Original Bill: [HB1848](#) **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). 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Immunity for Disclosure of Abuse by Employees

Original Bill: [HB1741](#) **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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Religious Liberty Protections/Campus Organizations

Original Bill: [HB1518](#) **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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing-Special Committee on Government Accountability

Religious Liberty/Infringements

Original Bill: [HB2478](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Ashley Aune (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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/22/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB787](#) **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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/09/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws

Support Educational Opportunities

Empowerment Scholarships

Original Bill: [HB1615](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Brad Hudson (R)

Description: Changes the definition of "qualified student" for purposes of Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB1671](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Mark Matthiesen (R)

Description: Changes the definition of "qualified student" for 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB1738](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Doug Richey (R)

Description: Changes provisions governing educational scholarships.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/30/2024 H - Referred to House-Special Committee on Education Reform

Original Bill: [HB2104](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Phil Christofanelli (R)

Description: Changes provisions governing educational scholarships.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Referred to House-Special Committee on Education Reform

Original Bill: [HB2366](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Aaron McMullen (R)

Description: Establishes the "Missouri Parent Empowerment Act" relating to a tax credit for certain educational expenses.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/11/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [HB2620](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Cody Smith (R)

Description: Changes the definition of "qualified student" for purposes of Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts.

Position Statement: Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/12/24

Last Action: 02/01/2024 H - Introduced and Read First Time

Original Bill: [SB1118](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)
Description: Modifies provisions relating to 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. 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate-Select Committee on Empowering Missouri Parents and Children

Original Bill: [SB727](#) **Amended Bill:** SCS SB727 **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. 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/18/2024 S - Reported Do Pass as substituted

Reform Criminal Justice

Death Penalty/Jury Instructions

Original Bill: [SB1169](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)
Description: Modifies provisions relating to jury instructions for the offense of 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. 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB859](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Karla May (D)
Description: Modifies provisions relating to the offense of 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. 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/11/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Early Parole/Older Inmates

Original Bill: [SB1147](#) **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." 01/12/24
Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB1218](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (D)

Description: Creates 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." 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB1294](#) **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." 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB914](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Tracy McCreery (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." 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Expanding Mandatory Minimums

Original Bill: [HB1545](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Bill Allen (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to minimum sentences.

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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/05/2024 H - Referred to House committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety

Expungement

Original Bill: [HB2247](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins (D)

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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB1194](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB763](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Brian Williams (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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/09/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB861](#) **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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/24/2024 S - Superseded by SB 754

Gain Time for Good Behavior

Original Bill: [HB2203](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Kimberly-Ann Collins (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to good time credit.

Position Statement: Support: Inmates serving a term of years should be provided gain time for good behavior as a reward and an incentive. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/24/2024 H - Public hearing completed

Original Bill: [SB1333](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Steven Roberts (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to good time credit for time served.

Position Statement: Support: Inmates serving a term of years should be provided gain time for good behavior as a reward and an incentive. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Providing ID to Inmates Prior to Release

Original Bill: [HB2502](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Philip Oehlerking (R)

Description: Requires the department of corrections to provide certain services to inmates prior to their release from the department.

Position Statement: Support: Support providing identification documents to help an individual reintegrate back into society. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/31/2024 H - Public hearing completed

Original Bill: [SB1254](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Greg Razer (D)

Description: Creates provisions relating to documents for inmates prior to release from prison.

Position Statement: Support: Support providing identification documents to help an individual reintegrate back into society. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Safety

Reforms Private Probation

Original Bill: [SB1227](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (D)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to terms of probation.

Position Statement: Support: Probation providers should be limited in the requirements they are permitted to impose upon offenders as a matter of justice and the legitimate exercise of public authority. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/25/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Wrongful Convictions/Compensation

Original Bill: [HB1597](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. LaKeySha Bosley (D)

Description: Creates a civil cause of action allowing claimants to seek damages from the state for wrongful conviction.

Position Statement: Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation increases the compensation already provided under current law. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/04/2024 H - Read Second Time

Original Bill: [SB860](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Brian Williams (D)

Description: Modifies provisions involving 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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/11/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB883](#) **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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/11/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

Original Bill: [SB886](#) **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. 01/12/24

Last Action: 01/11/2024 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence
