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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NICK SCHROER

State Representative District 107

Dear Governor Parson,

We, the undersigned Members of the Missouri General Assembly urge you to include in any proclamation calling for a special session to reauthorize the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA) or for other matters, to also include a general call to protect Missouri taxpayers and others from being forced to directly or indirectly fund abortion – such as by being forced to fund abortions or abortion access, to reimburse for abortion-causing drugs and devices or to send tax dollars to organizations that perform or induce elective abortions and their affiliates.

We are grateful for your leadership in your <u>State of the State address in January</u>, when you urged lawmakers to make Missouri "a better place for our children and grandchildren to achieve the American Dream" and to "focus on foster care and adoption."

As legislators, we carefully listened and answered your call by enacting during the just-ended regular session various bills and appropriations to: streamline the foster care and adoption process and provide tax relief to foster and adoptive parents; boost funding for kinship, foster and adoptive families; create a Birth Match program to protect newborns from abuse or neglect; require commonsense oversight of unlicensed, faith-based homes for youth; increase supportive services for homeless youth; and limit seclusion and restraint of children in schools – among other legislation and budget increases to protect children and families.

Our united response in removing barriers for children in foster care and those awaiting adoption renews the promise made by <u>President Ronald Reagan in his final State of the Union address</u> in January 1988:

I pledge to you tonight I will work to remove barriers to adoption and extend full sharing in family life to millions of Americans so that children who need homes can be welcomed to families who want them and love them.

But President Reagan made an additional request that evening that remains unfulfilled in our nation and in Missouri:

Tonight, I call America – a good nation, a moral people – to charitable but realistic consideration of the terrible cost of abortion on demand. To those who say this violates a woman's right to control of her own body: Can they deny that now medical evidence

confirms the unborn child is a living human being entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Let us unite as a nation and protect the unborn with legislation that would stop all Federal funding for abortion ... making, of course, an exception where the unborn child threatens the life of the mother. (emphasis added)

Because of opposition by Planned Parenthood and others in the abortion industry, and because of a wrongheaded <u>6-1 decision last summer by the Missouri Supreme Court</u>, Missourians are being forced to send tax dollars to organizations that perform or induce elective abortions and to their affiliates.

Nationally, both then-presidential primary contenders <u>Joe Biden and Kamala Harris vowed on the campaign trail to repeal the Hyde Amendment</u> – a law which for decades has prevented most taxpayer funding of abortion in Medicaid and other federal/state healthcare programs. President Biden and Vice President Harris are already taking the nation in the wrong direction, with the Family Research Council estimating that in the first 100 days in office, <u>the Biden-Harris Administration has made "\$479.9 billion available that can subsidize abortion and abortion businesses"</u>.

Pro-abortion members of Congress – including <u>Missouri Congresswoman Cori Bush</u> – are also pledging to rescind the Hyde Amendment. <u>Rep. Bush has co-sponsored a bill to do just that.</u>

As made clear recently by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

[R]escinding the amendment would even impose a pro-abortion-funding policy on states that have decided against it. With the Hyde Amendment in place, states choose whether or not to fund elective abortions with state taxes, and the people and elected representatives of 34 states have voluntarily chosen not to do so. Without the Hyde Amendment, abortion would likely become just another basic "service" that all states must fund to be part of Medicaid. (emphasis added)

Separately, the Mayor Tishaura Jones Administration in the City of St. Louis, acting in concert with the NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri Foundation, appears ready to hand out public funds for abortion or for abortion access – such as paying for travel and lodging for out-of-state abortions – similar to what Austin, Tex., did in 2019.

In March, then-<u>City Treasurer Jones and the NARAL Foundation declared that</u> as a "policy recommendation," there needs to be created a "Reproductive Justice Fund" to "[s]upport people in all pregnancy decisions **through direct municipal funding**." (emphasis added) The full Treasurer Jones/NARAL report can be found <u>here</u>.

Also, as was made apparent by various amendments and motions offered and adopted by legislators during the regular session, MO Healthnet should <u>not</u> be using our tax dollars to reimburse providers for offering FDA-approved drugs and devices that may cause the destruction of, or prevent the implantation of, an unborn child, as defined in section 188.015.

With the issue of <u>Medicaid expansion in Missouri back in the courts</u>, <u>now</u> is the time for state lawmakers to further protect Missourians who are opposed to their hard-earned dollars being used to pay for the wholesale destruction of innocent unborn babies. Missouri's elected and appointed officials whose responsibilities include paying the bills and making disbursements of public funds, should also be protected from being forced to participate in paying for this heinous slaughter.

For all these reasons, waiting until the next regular session of the Missouri General Assembly to deal with these problems is not a responsible or viable option. Referring back to your State of the State address in January, Missouri must become a better place for our children and grandchildren, born and unborn.

Gov. Parson, we urge you to exercise responsible pro-life leadership by making a general call for a special session to prohibit direct and indirect funding of abortion and abortion-related services – leaving it to the Missouri General Assembly to best craft pro-life legislation to be sent to your desk for your signature. To echo the words of President Reagan from 33 years ago, let us unite as Missourians to protect the unborn with legislation that would stop all Missouri funding for abortion.

Respectfully,

Rep. Nick Schroer House District 107

Senator Bob Onder District 2 Senator Bill Eigel District 23 Rep. Doug Richey House District 38

Rep. Hannah Kelly House District 141 Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman House District 97 Rep. Jim Murphy House District 94 Senator Denny Hoskins District 21

Denny Hoskins

Senator Andrew Koenig District 15

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Senator Mike Moon District 29 Rep. Dottie Bailey
House District 110

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Rep. Tim Taylor House District 48 Rep. Jamie Burger House District 148

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Rep. Mitch Boggs

House District 157

Rep. Bruce Sassmann House District 62

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House District 65

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Rep. Brad Hudson House District 138 Rep. Alex Riley House District 134

Meri Joalson Reisch Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch House District 44

Rep. Bill Kidd House District 20