

HCS HB 1563 -- PUBLIC FUNDING OF HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: Kelley (127)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 5.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1563.

Any taxpayer shall have standing to bring a cause of action in any court or administrative agency of competent jurisdiction to enforce these provisions.

This bill prohibits any public funding from being expended to any abortion facility, or associate or affiliate thereof, including for MO HealthNet reimbursement.

This bill modifies existing statute permitting any MO HealthNet participant to obtain services from any provider of such services in a MO HealthNet provider agreement with the state by requiring such provider to not be disqualified or excluded from serving as a MO HealthNet provider.

Additionally, this bill requires the Department of Social Services to suspend, revoke, or cancel any contract or provider agreement, or refuse to enter into a new contract or provider agreement, with any provider when it is determined that the provider is not qualified to perform the required services because such provider has committed certain offenses, as specified in the bill, or because the provider is an abortion facility, or an affiliate or associate thereof.

Lastly, this bill prohibits reimbursement to abortion facilities, or associates or affiliates thereof, under the "Uninsured Women's Health Program".

This bill is similar to SB 160 (2023).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill promotes the rights of the unborn. Missouri is a pro-life state and therefore should protect the lives of the unborn. Any facility affiliated with an out of state facility that performs abortions should not receive public funds. It was pointed out that no providers were present at the public hearing. Proponents of the bill stated that if

providers were against the bill's passing, they would have showed up to the hearing to voice their displeasure. Many proponents stated that this bill's passing would ensure taxpayer money is reserved for services we truly need. Proponents don't want taxpayer money to be used in support of facilities affiliated with abortion.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Kelley; Missouri Catholic Conference; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri Right To Life; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill prevents Missouri patients from getting life saving care such as cancer screenings, STI testing, etc. This bill also blocks patients insured by MO HealthNet from choosing their health care provider because any health care provider that is affiliated with an abortion facility would automatically be disqualified from selection. Proponents state that this bill's passing would disproportionately impact vulnerable Missourians that don't have the luxury of being able to choose which health care facility to go to. Programs like Planned Parenthood, which would be impacted by this bill, allow vulnerable Missourians to have access to health care that would not be available otherwise.

Testifying in person against the bill were Abortion Action Missouri (Formerly Pro Choice Missouri); and Missouri Family Health Council, Inc..

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.