

HCS HB 1478 -- PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 7 to 3.

The bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to inspect and investigate abortion facilities no less than once a year. The bill specifies inspection and investigation reports must be made available to the public and any portion of a report may be redacted when made publicly available if the portion of the report would disclose information that is not subject to disclosure under the law.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are lots of safety violations that occur in abortion facilities throughout the United States. The psychological impact of receiving an abortion is huge and when a woman threatens suicide or other personal harm they need help. This bill allows the woman to get help and gives her time to get into the right frame of mind. Supporters say they want to have the best health care available for everyone regardless of the person's gender or the procedure he or she is receiving.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri Right to Life; Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission; and Campaign Life Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill puts politics in between women and their doctors. Witnesses who oppose the bill say they oppose excessive regulations that single out abortion providers for purely political reasons. Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures and has a very low risk of medical complications.

Testifying against the bill were NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri; Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri; and ACLU of Eastern Missouri.