



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 852		DATE: 4/7/2021	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 11:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I am in Support of this Bill.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE MORRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-7239	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CATHOLIC CONFERENCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1022			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: morrisj@mocatholic.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 3:46 PM	

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The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) supports HB 852. The Missouri Catholic Conference supports legislation that supports a culture of life and defends against attacks on human life and dignity. As such, the Church has consistently opposed abortion, human cloning, and other medical research that destroys human life. Saint John Paul II specifically condemned the use of human embryos or fetuses as an object of experimentation, calling such use "a crime against their dignity as human beings who have a right to the same respect owed to a child once born, just as to every person." (Evangelium Vitae, ¶ 63) HB 852 would prohibit public funding for certain purposes relating to abortion, human cloning, and prohibited human research. These prohibitions are part of an effort to create a culture of life and compassion. State tax dollars should not be used to support abortion, human cloning, or other medical research that results in the destruction of nascent human life. The MCC supports HB 852 and asks this committee to vote this bill, "Do Pass."



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SAMUEL H. LEE		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-4242	
REPRESENTING: CAMPAIGN LIFE MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 142585			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63114
EMAIL: samuelhlee@mindspring.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 11:23 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN KLEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-5110	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 651			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: susan.k@missourilife.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 4/5/2021 10:34 AM
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Please See Written Testimony			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AARON LERMA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: aaron.m.lerma@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 1:24 PM
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I urge the committee to vote NO on HB 852. We are in the middle of a pandemic, and the only budget changes we should be making to our health care system is increasing funding - not excluding providers. HB 852 spreads misinformation about abortion in Missouri, and is an act of violence on our communities that are already marginalized. I urge you to vote NO on HB 852, and ask that you reconsider what the priorities of the committee should be at this time when so many people are suffering.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHELSEA SALYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: csalyer2@kumc.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/5/2021 1:32 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am a OBGYN physician who is currently training in a public university to specialize in gynecologic oncology. I cannot emphasize enough the devastating impact that this bill would have on research that is critical for the educating people likely myself, as well as other medical students, residents, and allied health professionals. Research using fetal tissue is necessary to protect the health of all citizens in our state. For instance--we needed fetal tissue to safely test and pilot the COVID vaccines, a critical step to containing the current pandemic and save thousands of lives. This bill does nothing to prevent abortion, instead it punishes students, trainees, and scientists who are all working tirelessly to keep our citizens healthy.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID L EISENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: eisenbergd@wustl.edu		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 9:25 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I write this testimony AGAINST HB852 on behalf of myself and my patients. I do not represent my employer. I am a board-certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist who has been taking care of Missourians and people from who come to me for care from all over the Midwest and the South for over a decade in locations around the St. Louis metropolitan area. HB 852 continues the Missouri legislature's interference in the practice of medicine, the advancement of science and the education of our next generation of healthcare providers. Our state and our citizens need Medicaid expansion to be funded, we need increased access to educational opportunity and continued investment in the academic and research institutions that make people want to come here. We do not need our elected officials wasting time and money on frivolous political point scoring. During my 20 years in medicine, public health and academics, I have seen that when state legislatures embrace and invest in evidence-based, common sense healthcare policies and practices they can improve the wellbeing of their citizens. Passing unconstitutional legislation such as this is not only irresponsible, but it also distracts from efforts to promote and protect the health of Missourians. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss how we can work together to improve the health of our state or if you have questions or concerns.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER BERNSTEIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-993-5181	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE: ADVOCACY MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 295 NORTH LINDBERGH BLVD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 634-4876	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI COALITION FOR LIVESAVING CURES (MO CURES)		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 E. CAPITOL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREL EDGAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: karel.edgar13@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 6:57 PM

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The language used in this bill is inflammatory and nonsensical. Ethical research is an integral part of health care and should be based in science, not the personal opinions of lawmakers.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: M'EVIE MEAD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-604-7611	
REPRESENTING: PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES IN MISSOURI		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES IN MO	
ADDRESS: 4251 FOREST PARK AVE			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63108
EMAIL: mevie.mead@ppmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 4:52 PM	
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HB 852 (Walsh): Political Interference in Medical ResearchPPMO Summary: This anti-science bill is another example of politicians trying to dictate the work of physicians, academics and public health experts.HB 852 puts politics above science and medicine. This bill is driven by anti-abortion animus and advances a false narrative about abortion providers. The politicians behind this bill are the same ones who want to ban abortion in Missouri.The broadly worded bill could impact medical students, public health graduate students and even potentially undergraduates at public institutions or private institutions that receive public funds doing any type of research involving abortion.Fact Sheet: https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/uploads/filer_public/1c/ef/1cefe13c-4947-4936



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAE WINCHESTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mwwinchester@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 4:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

House Children and Families CommitteeHB852Position: AgainstApril 7, 2021My name is Dr. Mae Winchester and I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist living in Kansas City, Missouri. I also have a master's degree in biomedical science and currently am involved in perinatal research. Some of the most common problems encountered during pregnancy relate to a poorly functioning placenta. The placenta is the connection between mother and fetus, where nutrient and gas exchange occurs. A fetus cannot be healthy unless the placenta is also healthy. A poorly functioning placenta can cause fetuses to have significant growth restriction and a significantly increased risk of stillbirth. It increases a mother's chance of cesarean section and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, which can be life-threatening. While we know that the placenta has the power to cause these catastrophic problems, we don't actually fully understand how the placenta works and what causes it to function poorly. Management of the problems I described has not changed much in the last 50 years, because safe, well-designed research takes time. Many of the research techniques currently being used to study problems that develop during pregnancy use tissue, sometimes from abortion, that would have otherwise been discarded. Using tissue from miscarriages is not always feasible because miscarried pregnancies are often "abnormal" pregnancies – meaning there were issues with implantation, genetic problems, birth defects, or any of a multitude of issues that can contribute to a miscarriage. Similarly, animal studies can help us potentially understand human pregnancy, but are not a substitute. This leaves tissue from abortion as one of few potential sources of "normal" placenta to study. We cannot understand a problematic placenta until we understand a well-functioning placenta. Without research, we cannot improve the lives of mothers and their children. As a physician-scientist, invested in the well-being of my patients, I oppose any legislation that will limit research that has the potential to save lives in the future. I encourage you to vote no on HB852. Mae Winchester, MD



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE DOW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdow63701@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 9:10 PM
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The Hyde Amendment already blocks public funds from being used for abortions. Preventing public funds from going to human research could potentially harm healthcare, vaccine research, pharmaceuticals, and other related research. Essentially, this bill would make medical breakthroughs only available to those who could monetarily support them. In short, those that could not afford it, would be sentenced to suffering and death. This is considered inhumane. According to the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, ALL Americans have equal protection under the law. This bill is unconstitutional.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MO DEL VILLAR		PHONE NUMBER: 816-929-6166	
REPRESENTING: AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF MISSOURI		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE ASSOCIATE	
ADDRESS: 406 WEST 34TH STREET, SUITE 420			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64111
EMAIL: mdelvillar@aclu-mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 9:00 PM
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April 7, 2021 House Committee on Children and Families Chair Coleman HB 852 Dear Honorable Committee Members: Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony today. On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri and our approximately 15,000 supporters statewide, I would like to express our opposition to HB 852. HB 852 is redundant and further stigmatizes access to care. Under current law, "Public funds shall not be expended, paid, or granted to or on behalf of an existing or proposed research project that involves abortion services, human cloning, or prohibited human research." If that were to occur, the entity providing the funding could be subject to a lawsuit. By placing this language in Chapter 188, similar penalties apply. In fact, RsMO 188.220 specifies that "Any taxpayer of this state or its political subdivisions shall have standing to bring suit in a circuit court of proper venue to enforce the provisions of sections 188.200 to 188.215. This bill is not necessary to counter the concerns brought by the sponsor. Moreover, Missouri should move beyond stigmatizing research. Research studies surrounding abortion have the capacity to improve care options and develop new strategies that would aid Missouri residents seeking abortion. There is research that focuses on how to increase safety in abortion procedures. There is research that concerns the effects abortion in developing countries. There is research that studies abortion in situations where a pregnant person's life is in danger. Defunding all abortion research under the broad definition provided in statute would not necessarily reduce the frequency of this procedure; rather, it would stymie efforts that could make this constitutionally protected procedure safer. Efforts like HB 852 could enhance threats to research on contraceptive care in Missouri. Research projects on contraceptive care could be shut down for being affiliated with abortion providers or studying devices that make not allow the implantation of fertilized eggs which some legislators, including those in the Missouri Senate, are redefining as abortion. Studies show that access to contraceptive care has great benefits for people. A 2014 article finds that women who have legal access to contraceptive care by age 20 reduces the likelihood of that woman living in poverty by up to 12.2 percentage points. A study conducted by researchers from Washington University's School of Medicine found that providing contraceptive care to the public reduces unwanted pregnancy and abortion rates by at least 62%. Contraceptive care is incredibly important and creating more laws that stigmatize abortion research could result in withdrawing funding from this work as well. I urge you to vote "no" on this legislation. Thank you again for your consideration. Best, Mo Del Villar Legislative Associate American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri 1) RsMO 196.1127.2) Bernstein, A., MPH & Jones, K., PhD. (July 2019). The Economic Effects of Contraceptive Access: A Review of the Evidence. Institute for Women's Policy. https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/B381_Contraception-Access_Final.pdf. 3) Williams, D. (October 12, 2012). Access to free birth control reduces abortion rates. Washington University School of Medicine: Contraceptive CHOICE Project. <https://medicine.wustl.edu/news/access-to-free-birth-control-reduces->

abortion-rates/#:~:text=A%20new%20study%20by%20investigators,compared%20to%20the%
20national%20rate.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL LEYKAMP		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: leykamp.paul@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/5/2021 12:55 PM

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Ms. Walsh at this point should just come out as anti-science and anti-research.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA O'CONNOR		PHONE NUMBER: 617-270-4465	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE (ASRM)		TITLE: DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 726 7TH ST SE			
CITY: WASHINGTON DC		STATE: DC	ZIP: 20003
EMAIL: boconnor@asrm.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2021 6:43 AM	
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April 7, 2021The Honorable Mary Elizabeth ColemanChair, House Children and Families CommitteeJefferson City, MO Re: Opposition to HB 431 and HB 852Dear Chair Coleman and Members of the Committee:On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I write to oppose HB 431 and HB 852, bills that amount to a thinly veiled attempt to disrupt and, ultimately, eradicate access to a safe, medically accepted and legal procedure and do nothing to improve the lives or health of Missourians. These ill-conceived bills, part of a national effort to stigmatize abortion patients, burden healthcare providers, and ultimately end access to legal abortion altogether, could have a direct and negative impact on patients undergoing treatment for infertility. ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of science and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others. Infertility, recognized by the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization as a disease that impacts as many as 7.3 million couples in the United States can, untreated, upend the dream of building a family. Policymakers may not understand the complexities and the inefficiencies inherent in human reproduction. Medical professionals and lab personnel working in concert to treat infertility patients know these complexities all too well. Treatments of infertility are highly specialized and individualized. At a time when the strains on our national and state health care systems have, perhaps, never been clearer, it makes no policy sense to add additional barriers to quality care. Missouri should not be legislating new barriers to care in the midst of a global pandemic that has cost hundreds of thousands of American lives. If, in fact, Missouri is interested in delving into the complex reality of providing oversight for medical research and therapies involving human reproductive tissues, we, as experts, stand ready to inform a deliberative, medically necessary and evidence-based effort. In the interim, we urge you to oppose HB 431 and HB 852, each of which does nothing to protect or help patients and which singles out and irresponsibly politicizes and stigmatizes a safe, proven medical procedure. Please do not hesitate to contact Becca O'Connor, Director of Government Affairs, with any questions: boconnor@asrm.org 617.270.4465. Sincerely, Hugh Taylor, M.D. President



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE TRANEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: stranen@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/6/2021 4:46 PM
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While visiting my parents in New Jersey from my home in St. Louis county, I discovered I was 6 weeks pregnant. My husband had left to work in Canada for his employer, McDonell Douglas for a period of a couple of months. I had decided to stay with my parents because I was caring for our 2 young children of 19 months and 7 months. Taking care of them was overwhelming because we had no family in St. Louis. The pregnancy was a complete surprise since our two children were planned and I was using proven contraception, an IUD, to prevent another pregnancy. When the pregnancy was confirmed, I needed health care. After some research we learned that abortion services were legal and available in New York through my old pediatrician. On the day of my procedure, my mother took care of my boys and my mother-in-law, took me to the city and brought me back to my parents' house. My decision was based on my inability to care for 3 children so close in age halfway across the country from any family, my desire for a career which I had just begun to formalize and my sense that my life and my needs were most important. Taking care of myself should not be shameful. My body was not intended to only be a vessel for childbirth. My life is mine to be lived as I see fit. It is wrong to stigmatize and harass women who want to have the healthcare needed to live their lives on their own terms. My sons grew up in a loving family in St. Louis County. They are college educated and doing well in their careers. They are now married young men with families of their own. We have six beautiful, wanted grandchildren all living nearby. I never regretted my decision to raise 2 wanted children and no more. I oppose any legislation that signals out abortion for any unnecessary restrictions. A woman should be able to control how many children she chooses to raise.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/4/2021 5:41 PM
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Prohibitions on utilizing fetal tissue to advance medical science are shortsighted. Researchers need to be able to explore every avenue in order to develop cures for a backlog of medical conditions that cause great human suffering and to address emerging threats like pandemics.