

HCS HJR 54 -- REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: Stinnett

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

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 54.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment prohibits abortions, except in cases of medical emergencies, fetal anomalies, rape, or incest. In the case of abortions performed or induced because of rape or incest, the abortion may be performed or induced no later than 12 weeks gestational age of the unborn child.

The amendment also prohibits public funds from being used to pay for abortions; prohibits the use of surgeries, hormones, or drugs to assist a child with a gender transition; specifies which circuit court challenges shall be brought to; and holds that any person who intentionally or negligently causes damage to another person relating to the provision of reproductive health care or the performance or inducement of an abortion is liable for damages and subject to suspension or revocation of his or her medical license. Under this constitutional amendment, a woman's right to reproductive freedom includes the right to health care in cases of miscarriages, ectopic pregnancies, and other medical emergencies. The General Assembly will have the authority to enact laws to carry out these provisions.

This bill is similar to SJR 33 (2025).

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that voters did not know the entirety of what they were voting on as it related to Amendment 3, including the freedom to abort an unborn child with Down's Syndrome or because of that unborn child's race or sex. The amendment was passed very narrowly and the process was flooded with dark money from out-of-state to present false information to voters. It is breathtakingly irresponsible to allow the feelings of children to dictate whether a person can change their gender. Medical malpractice is different than someone who would break their medical oath to protect unborn life.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Stinnett; Denise Gelina; Michael J Kern; Timothy Faber; Missouri Catholic

Conference; Campaign Life Missouri; John Kreipe, Pony Express Chapter, Missouri Right To Life; Missouri Right To Life; Tina Goodrick; and Maryalice Williams.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the people already voted on the issue, it is offensive to imply that no one knew what they were voting on, and that abortion is simply a health care procedure. Twelve weeks is not enough time to process being the victim of rape or incest, file a police report alleging that rape or incest, and find a physician who will perform the procedure.

Testifying in person against the bill were Donna Carrender; Evan Prost; Julie Ann Peterson; Justin E. Flowers; Kate Hopkins; Kim Hayes; Melanie Montambeault; Rachael Gay Cailliach; Raymond James; Sara Diane Boren; Cathleen Abrams; Jacob Kempen; Zack Wilson; Ellie Bledsoe, Planned Parenthood Great Rivers Action; Tori Schafer, ACLU of Missouri; Camryn Garey; Kendan Elliott; Melana Salisbury; Raymond James; Shannon Young; Susan Renee Carter; Abigeihl West, Abortion Action Mo; Alanna Kellogg; Ali Zadel; Alice-Ann Nix; Amanda Jensen; Angela Allard; Beth Spindler; Betsy Vanderheyden; Bruce A. Rogers; Carla Nieman; Collins F. Chetwin; Cynthia Berne; Denise Gelina; Denise Morgan-Irish; Desiree White; Diane L Light; Dr. Ene-Kaja Chippendale; Edward Bernard Jr.; Harriet Blickenstaff; J. E. Flowers; Jaeda Ruth; Jane Dicampo; Jay Augustine; Jeff Stack; Jess Piper; Julie Peterson; Kalyann Coy; Karen Postey; Karl Tray; Ken Denson; Abortion Action Missouri; Kimber Palmer; Leslie Ortbals; Lori Rooney; Lori Zucker; Marie Carlson; Nancy O'brien; Reagan Young; Sally J Altman; Sara Lewis; Stephen Perry; Valli Rae Herbold; Julia Carney; and Vivian Kane.

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.