

## Mandated Video to Shame Women Who Seek Abortion Services

[HB 124](#) Rep. Black (R-117) Desloge

HB 124 requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to create a video that contains all the information required to be provided to a woman considering an abortion. If passed, a woman seeking abortion services at least 72 hours in advance would be given state-scripted counseling that includes medically inaccurate information designed to try to change her mind. The same politically charged information would be repeated 3 times; in person, in writing and in the forced viewing of a video.

### **Coercing women to view a video despite the extensive informed consent process already in place is disrespectful to women and has no place in Missouri law.**

This law is about trying to shame a woman out of having an abortion - pure and simple.

Current Missouri law already requires an extensive and burdensome informed consent process for women seeking safe legal abortion. The existing law requires a qualified professional to discuss, in person, 72 hours in advance:

- Offered the opportunity, to view an active ultrasound and listen to the fetal heartbeat if audible.
- State-developed 22 page booklet detailing fetal development at 2-week increments from conception to birth, describing abortion methods, paternity laws, child support, and alternatives to abortion.
- Abortion providers must also post a sign stating that “public and private agencies [are] willing to help you carry your child to term and to assist you and your child after your child is born [...]”
- In addition, the qualified professional must present the woman with the statement: “The life of each human being begins at conception. Abortion will terminate the life of a separate, unique, living human being.”
- Short and long term risk factors including any ‘psychological or situational factors.’

**A politician forcing a doctor to use a video for political — not medical — reasons is a dangerous intrusion into medical care.** Laws that require watching a video before an abortion are about politics, not medicine. The measure makes no exceptions for women under any circumstances, including cases of rape, incest, or those who receive a tragic diagnosis during pregnancy. Politics do not belong in the exam room and a doctor should not have to present materials intended to shame a woman because some politicians disagree with her decision. Politicians are not medical experts, but politicians have drafted this legislation with the ultimate goal of restricting access to safe, legal abortion.

**Planned Parenthood: Care. No matter what.** Planned Parenthood works to ensure women and their families have access to high quality nonjudgmental health services free of coercion, supported by information and counseling. Planned Parenthood affiliates in Missouri serve tens of thousands of women, men, and teens annually. At 13 health centers across the state, Planned Parenthood provides preventive health services, including life-saving cancer screenings, birth control, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, pap tests, comprehensive sex education, and reproductive health information.