

Teen Endangerment - Two-Parent Notice Fact Sheet

[HB 99](#) - Rep. Miller (R-124, Osage Beach)

The bill creates additional administrative barriers beyond the existing one parent consent requirement before a minor may seek an abortion. The bill requires the consenting parent to notify the other custodial parent or guardian in writing prior to the performance of an abortion. Additionally HB 99 includes a provision to prevent Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) from ever being regulated.

We ALL want our teens to be safe. Parental consent and notification laws are opposed by major medical groups including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association because research has shown they do not increase parental involvement, do not foster healthy communication, and in fact can be very detrimental to the health and safety of young women. State law already requires a woman under the age of 18 to obtain written informed consent of one parent or guardian prior to an abortion.

Unfortunately, not all teens come from homes where good family communication is possible.

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, and the good news is that the majority of teens do go to their parents when faced with an unintended pregnancy. Yet, some teens live with violent or abusive parents and do not feel safe talking to their parents about serious issues such as unintended pregnancy. In the real world, no law can mandate family communication. Instead, this requirement could cause a scared teen to put her safety at risk or do something desperate that would endanger her health.

Measures like HB 99 can come between a young woman and the health care she needs. This requirement could cause medical care to be delayed, threatening a young woman's health. That's why it is essential that we keep teens safe by opposing this bill.

PRCs do not meet the standard of care for women's health services. These centers would not have to adhere to any existing ordinances that all other entities must comply with, such as regulations regarding noise, parking, and littering. Importantly, PRCs would not be required to comply with any rules or ordinances established in the future, such as requirements regarding client confidentiality or false and misleading advertising. PRCs are on record for providing false and misleading information to vulnerable women and are currently not required to provide medically accurate information. PRCs are NOT regulated either in the content of the "medical" advice or referrals they provide.

We ask that the Missouri Legislature get to the root of the problem and focus on reducing unintended pregnancy. The proven way to prevent unplanned pregnancies and reduce the need for abortion is through comprehensive sex education and affordable access to birth control. Improving access to preventive health care and supporting healthy families should be a shared goal in Missouri.

Investing in Sex Education not only prevents unintended pregnancy but makes good fiscal sense. If we want our country to be fiscally responsible we must invest in sex education and family planning services, as unintended pregnancies cost U.S. families \$11 billion a year (Guttmacher). According to a report from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, if those giving birth during their teen years instead had their children during adulthood, U.S. taxpayers would save about \$1,600 per person annually. For every dollar invested in family planning programs, the government saves approximately \$7 (Guttmacher).

This measure is a dangerous tactic that can threaten the health and safety of young women in the state. It is essential that we keep teens safe by opposing HB 99.