

HB 2252 -- TAX CREDIT FOR PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS

SPONSOR: Faith

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill reauthorizes the provisions regarding the tax credit for contributions to pregnancy resource centers and extends the expiration date until August 28, 2022.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 in FY 2011, an income of \$0 in FY 2012, and an income of \$0 to a cost of \$2,000,000 in FY 2013. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that every year the Department of Social Services makes an equal allocation of the credits to all qualified centers. Last year \$40,000 was allocated to each center and then transferred between the centers as needed. Less than \$1 million is issued each year serving about 36,000 clients. Funds from the credits have allowed for the purchase of ultrasound equipment and the expansion of urban centers, services, and ministry. No medical services are provided, but the centers provide options counseling, child-rearing advice, maternity and baby clothes, job training, bible studies, and referrals for medical care at no cost.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Faith; Campaign Life Missouri; Terri Hunter and Kellie Sandefur, Thrive St. Louis; Cindi Boston, Pregnancy Care Center; Joe Dalton, Pregnancy Resource Center of Rolla; Missouri Catholic Conference; Shaun Dickerson, Pregnancy Support Center; Missouri Right to Life; Charity Quinn, Life Network of Central Missouri; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission; and Americans United for Life.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the credit is used to intimidate women with crisis pregnancies who are often confused and enter a center by mistake. These centers provide misleading and often inaccurate information to women about reproductive health issues, including information on birth control and abstinence. Eighty-seven percent of centers provide false or misinformation regarding the relationship between abortion and mental illness and breast cancer. The pregnancy centers often make promises that are not met. A woman needs accurate information so she can make a decision about adoption, abortion, or to parent the child.

Testifying against the bill was Planned Parenthood Affiliates in

Missouri.