

HB 190 -- PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote of 7 to 1.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to inspect and investigate abortion facilities no less than once a year. The bill specifies inspection and investigation reports must be made available to the public and any portion of a report may be redacted when made publicly available if the portion of the report would disclose information that is not subject to disclosure under the law.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of the bill say that there are lots of safety violations that occur in abortion facilities throughout the United States. They want to have the best health care available for everyone regardless of the person's gender or the procedure he or she is receiving. In the past, inspections of abortion facilities have not been regular, and the bill ensures that abortion providers are inspected annually at a minimum.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri Catholic Conference; Missouri Right to Life; James A. Imhoff; Barbara Groner; Judith Bax; Michael D. Forck; Donna Bernskoetter; Kathleen A. Forck; Daniel Baker; Joanne M. Schrader; Missouri Family Policy Council; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill puts politics in between women and their doctors. They oppose excessive regulations that single out abortion providers for purely political reasons. Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures and has a very low risk of medical complications. If supporters are actually worried about patient safety, the law should require all ambulatory surgical centers to be inspected annually, not just abortion providers.

Testifying against the bill were ACLU of Missouri; Sarah Nesbitt; Jordyn Killion; Dina VanderZalm; and M'Evie Mead, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Missouri.