

# MCC Positions and Progress Report

MCC position bills pending in 2021 Missouri General Assembly ~ 4/9/2021

## Protect Human Life

### Abortion Abolition

**Original Bill:** [SB391](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Moon (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Abolition of Abortion in Missouri Act".

**Position Statement:** Oppose: This bill would eliminate all pro-life laws restricting abortion in favor of abolishing abortion altogether, a position that is not legally sustainable and which jeopardizes the legal status of the significant pro-life legislative gains made since the passage of Roe v. Wade. It would also subject women who have an abortion to possible criminal prosecution and eliminates the alternatives to abortion program.

**Last Action:** 02/11/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Health and Pensions

### Abortion Drug Mandate

**Original Bill:** [HB129](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Ian Mackey (D)

**Description:** Establishes the "Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act".

**Position Statement:** Oppose: "To refuse to take part in committing an injustice is not only a moral duty; it is a basic human right." (Evangelium Vitae, par. 74) 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

### Abortion Funding/Prohibition

**Original Bill:** [HB10](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 10    **Sponsor:** Rep. Cody Smith (R)

**Description:** To appropriate money for the Department of Mental Health, Department of Health and Senior Services, and several divisions and programs. Section 10.725 prohibits funding for abortion services and abortion agencies.

**Position Statement:** Support in part: Support Section 10.725, which ensures state tax dollars are not used to fund abortion services. Abortion is the taking of human life and Missouri taxpayers should not be forced to pay for abortion services. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 03/26/20

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Original Bill:** [HB635](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Nick Schroer (R)

**Description:** Prohibits expenditures of public funds to any person or facility, or affiliate of such, performing or inducing an abortion.

**Position Statement:** Support: Legislation ensures state tax dollars are not used to fund abortion services. Abortion is the taking of human life and Missouri taxpayers should not be forced to pay for abortion services. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/04/2021 H - Referred to House Committee on Emerging Issues



## Alternatives to Abortion/Funding

**Original Bill:** [HB11](#)      **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 11      **Sponsor:** Rep. Cody Smith (R)

**Description:** To appropriate money for the Department of Social Services and several divisions and programs. Section 11.160 provides \$6.4 million for the Alternatives to Abortion (ATA) program.

**Position Statement:** Support in part: Support Section 11.160 that provides funds for the Alternatives to Abortion (ATA) program. Part of the effort to create a culture of life and compassion. "Thanks to the work of such centres, many unmarried mothers and couples discover new hope and find assistance and support in overcoming hardship and the fear of accepting a newly conceived life or life which has just come into the world." (Evangelium Vitae, par. 88) 03/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations

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## Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

**Original Bill:** [HB155](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Doug Richey (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act".

**Position Statement:** Support: The state has a duty to protect human life and to prosecute those who show a reckless disregard for it. No child born alive following an abortion attempt should be denied basic life-sustaining care. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [HB672](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act".

**Position Statement:** Support: The state has a duty to protect human life and to prosecute those who show a reckless disregard for it. No child born alive following an abortion attempt should be denied basic life-sustaining care. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB168](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Eric Burlison (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act".

**Position Statement:** Support: The state has a duty to protect human life and to prosecute those who show a reckless disregard for it. No child born alive following an abortion attempt should be denied basic life-sustaining care. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/25/2021 S - Reported Do Pass - Senate-Health and Pensions

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## Death Penalty Repeal

**Original Bill:** [HB127](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Ian Mackey (D)

**Description:** Abolishes the death penalty and specifies that any person sentenced to death must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

**Position Statement:** Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2267) 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [HB50](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Sarah Unsicker (D)  
**Description:** Abolishes the death penalty and specifies that any person sentenced to death must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.  
**Position Statement:** Support: The death penalty undermines respect for human life. Errors in the judicial system can lead to the execution of innocent people. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2267) 01/22/21  
**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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### Death Penalty/Jury Instructions

**Original Bill:** [HB462](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Shamed Dogan (R)  
**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to trial procedures for murder in the first degree.  
**Position Statement:** Support: Support legislation as way to scale back the use of the death penalty, a practice which undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. 01/22/21  
**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB341](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Bill White (R)  
**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to jury instructions for the offense of murder in the first degree.  
**Position Statement:** Support: Support legislation as way to scale back the use of the death penalty, a practice which undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. 01/22/21  
**Last Action:** 02/04/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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### Death Penalty/Mental Illness Exemption

**Original Bill:** [HB278](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Tom Hannegan (R)  
**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to murder in the first degree.  
**Position Statement:** Support: Support this proposal to exempt the seriously mentally ill from capital punishment. The MCC supports repeal of the death penalty, but also supports incremental steps to scale back the death penalty, such as those proposed in this legislation. 01/22/21  
**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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### Dismemberment Abortion/Ban

**Original Bill:** [HB468](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Chris Dinkins (R)  
**Description:** Prohibits the performance of dismemberment abortions.  
**Position Statement:** Support with amendments: Support efforts to ban all second trimester abortions. MCC supports amendment to include a ban on all forms of second trimester abortions. Part of the effort to protect human life. 01/22/21  
**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB458](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)  
**Description:** Establishes the "Missouri Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act".  
**Position Statement:** Support with amendments: Support efforts to ban all second trimester abortions. MCC supports amendment to include a ban on all forms of second trimester abortions. Part of the effort to protect human life. 01/22/21  
**Last Action:** 03/10/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Health and Pensions

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## Equal Rights Amendment

**Original Bill:** [HCR8](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Ingrid Burnett (D)

**Description:** Establishes Missouri's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: While a laudable goal, equal rights for women should not come at the expense of unborn children, whose Constitutional right to life has been superseded by U.S. Supreme Court precedent recognizing abortion as a women's right to privacy protected by the Constitution. The MCC is concerned that ratifying the ERA would further embed a right to abortion in the U.S. Constitution and may undermine pro-life provisions in Missouri law.  
01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/12/2021 H - Read Second Time

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## Expanding WIC Program

**Original Bill:** [HB652](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Martha Stevens (D)

**Description:** Adds WIC recipients to those eligible for vouchers for fresh produce.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support extending WIC program in this manner as part of an effort to create a culture of life and compassion. Providing women, infants, and children access to fresh produce will help in effort to promote good eating habits and healthy diets for recipients of WIC benefits. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/11/2021 H - Reported Do Pass - House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

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**Original Bill:** [SB525](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Lauren Arthur (D)

**Description:** Provides vouchers for farmers' markets for certain pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under 5 years of age.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support extending WIC program in this manner as part of an effort to create a culture of life and compassion. Providing women, infants, and children access to fresh produce will help in effort to promote good eating habits and healthy diets for recipients of WIC benefits. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/29/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Agriculture, Food Production and Outdoor Resources

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## Maternity Homes/Tax Credits

**Original Bill:** [HB1109](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to tax credits for contributions to certain benevolent organizations.

**Position Statement:** Support: The maternity home tax credit encourages charitable giving to programs that provide essential assistance to women facing crisis pregnancies. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/10/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [HB1129](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Willard Haley (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to tax credits for contributions to certain benevolent organizations.

**Position Statement:** Support: The maternity home tax credit encourages charitable giving to programs that provide essential assistance to women facing crisis pregnancies. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/15/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB101](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Andrew Koenig (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to abortion.

**Position Statement:** Support: The grisly practice of hoarding fetal remains from abortions should be outlawed. The remains of deceased human beings should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of the cause of death. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/10/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Health and Pensions

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### Tax Credit/Deduction for Adoption/Foster Care

**Original Bill:** [HB429](#)    **Amended Bill:** SS SCS HCS HB 429    **Sponsor:** Rep. Hannah Kelly (R)

**Description:** Authorizes an income tax deduction for the provision of child foster care services.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support these tax deductions as a means of encouraging foster families to continue providing a home to minors in the state foster care system. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing    04/12/2021 12:50 PM - \*\* REVISED to ADD BILLS \*\* - House-Fiscal Review, HR 4

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**Original Bill:** [HB430](#)    **Amended Bill:** SS SCS HCS HB 430    **Sponsor:** Rep. Hannah Kelly (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to tax credits for the adoption of children.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support expanding adoption tax credits as a means of encouraging families to adopt children in need of a home. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing    04/12/2021 12:50 PM - \*\* REVISED to ADD BILLS \*\* - House-Fiscal Review, HR 4

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**Original Bill:** [HB673](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 673    **Sponsor:** Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)

**Description:** Modifies and creates provisions relating to the protection of children.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support expanding adoption tax credits as a means of encouraging families to adopt children in need of a home. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/30/2021 H - Reported Do Pass - House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

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**Original Bill:** [SB461](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Andrew Koenig (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to tax credits for the care of certain children.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support expanding adoption tax credits and creating a tax deduction for foster parents as a means of encouraging families to foster and adopt children in need of a home. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/30/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Economic Development

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**Advance Social and Economic Justice for All**

## COVID Unemployment Compensation

**Original Bill:** [HB1083](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HBs 1083, 1085, 1050, 1035, 1036, 873 & 1097    **Sponsor:** Rep. John Eggleston (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to unemployment compensation benefit overpayments.

**Position Statement:** Support: Forgiving non-fraudulent receipt of federal unemployment benefits during the COVID pandemic is a means of economic justice and will help to allay the financial impact of the health crisis on people in need. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/01/2021 S - Hearing Conducted

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**Original Bill:** [SB481](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Lincoln Hough (R)

**Description:** Creates new provisions relating to the recovery of overpaid unemployment benefits.

**Position Statement:** Support: Forgiving non-fraudulent receipt of federal unemployment benefits during the COVID pandemic is a means of economic justice and will help to allay the financial impact of the health crisis on people in need. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/25/2021 S - Reported Do Pass - Senate-Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight

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**Original Bill:** [SB482](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Doug Beck (D)

**Description:** Creates new provisions relating to the recovery of unemployment benefits.

**Position Statement:** Support: Forgiving non-fraudulent receipt of federal unemployment benefits during the COVID pandemic is a means of economic justice and will help to allay the financial impact of the health crisis on people in need. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/04/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Small Business and

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## Denouncing Racial Injustice

**Original Bill:** [HCR4](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HCRs 4 & 5    **Sponsor:** Rep. Raychel Proudie (D)

**Description:** Formally denounces the infamous Dred Scott decision.

**Position Statement:** Support: This resolution is a means of acknowledging the injustice done to persons of African descent through this court decision and the inhospitable social and legal climate it fostered. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/01/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions, and Ethics

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**Original Bill:** [HCR5](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Dottie Bailey (R)

**Description:** Formally denounces the infamous Dred Scott decision.

**Position Statement:** Support: This resolution is a means of acknowledging the injustice done to persons of African descent through this court decision and the inhospitable social and legal climate it fostered. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/23/2021 H - Superseded by HCR 4

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**Original Bill:** [SCR3](#)    **Amended Bill:** SCS SCR 3    **Sponsor:** Sen. Steven Roberts (D)

**Description:** Condemns the Missouri Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision.

**Position Statement:** Support: This resolution is a means of acknowledging the injustice done to persons of African descent through this court decision and the inhospitable social and legal climate it fostered. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/11/2021 H - Read Second Time

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## Food Stamps/Work Requirements

**Original Bill:** [HB217](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 217    **Sponsor:** Rep. Chad Perkins (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to work requirements for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: In the zeal to get people to work, sanctions should not be imposed that deny basic food allowances to children. There are better ways to encourage work. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/30/2021 H - Reported Do Pass - House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

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**Original Bill:** [SB138](#)    **Amended Bill:** SCS SB 138    **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

**Description:** Modifies the law relating to work requirements for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: In the zeal to get people to work, sanctions should not be imposed that deny basic food allowances to children. There are better ways to encourage work. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/04/2021 S - Reported Do Pass as substituted - Senate-Seniors, Families, Children, and Military Affairs

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## Housing

**Original Bill:** [SB85](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Dan Hegeman (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to low-income housing tax credits.

**Position Statement:** Support: Establishing a state low-income housing tax credit will help encourage developers to build housing for the poor and underserved communities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/23/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Economic Development

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## Medicaid Work Requirements

**Original Bill:** [HJR64](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Cody Smith (R)

**Description:** Proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Missouri relating to health care.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Work requirements for Medicaid recipients put them at risk of losing coverage, resulting in the inconsistent delivery of care over time, and poor health outcomes for those with chronic conditions. Part of the effort to ensure access to affordable health care for all. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, par. 166) 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/02/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB224](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Bob Onder (R)

**Description:** Requires certain MO HealthNet participants to comply with work and community engagement requirements.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Work requirements for Medicaid recipients put them at risk of losing coverage, resulting in the inconsistent delivery of care over time, and poor health outcomes for those with chronic conditions. Part of the effort to ensure access to affordable health care for all. (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, par. 166) 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/24/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Health and Pensions

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## Minimum Wage/Repeal

**Original Bill:** [HB726](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Cody Smith (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to the state minimum wage rate.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: All workers deserve a just wage in order to support themselves and their families. A just wage is one way to uphold the dignity of work and workers. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 2434) 03/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/22/2021 H - Removed from House Hearing Agenda - Special Committee on Small Business - 02/24/21 - 4:30 pm - HR 1

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## Reduced Water and Sewer Rates for Low-income Earners

**Original Bill:** [HB1038](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Jeff Knight (R)

**Description:** Allows the Public Service Commission to authorize a low income rate for water and sewer service.

**Position Statement:** Support: The Public Service Commission should have the authority to set a reduced rate for water and sewer utilities for low-income customers as a means of making these utilities more affordable for those customers. Part of the effort to uphold the dignity of work and workers. (Laborem Excercens, par. 9, 10, 17-19) 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/04/2021 H - Read Second Time

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## Show-Me Healthy Babies

**Original Bill:** [HB11](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 11    **Sponsor:** Rep. Cody Smith (R)

**Description:** To appropriate money for the Department of Social Services and several divisions and programs. Section 11.805 provides \$62 million for the Show-Me Healthy Babies program. This includes funding for prenatal care and related services for pregnant women and their unborn children.

**Position Statement:** Support in part: Support Section 11.805 that provides funds for Show-Me Healthy Babies program, which is designed to provide improved access to prenatal care for expectant mothers and their unborn children. 03/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations

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## Uphold and Strengthen Marriage and Family

### "Marriage" Removed from Statute

**Original Bill:** [HB1282](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Adam Schnelting (R)

**Description:** Changes the laws regarding marriage and replaces marriage licenses with contracts of domestic union.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: "Although the dignity of this institution [marriage] is not transparent everywhere with the same clarity, some sense of the greatness of the matrimonial union exists in all cultures. The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life." (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, par. 1603) This legislation represents a retreat from the effort to revitalize the institution of marriage, an institution essential to the preservation of society. 03/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/10/2021 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight

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## Gender Reassignment Treatment Ban

**Original Bill:** [HB33](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Suzie Pollock (R)

**Description:** Prohibits medical providers from administering any medical or surgical treatment for the purpose of gender reassignment for anyone under the age of eighteen.

**Position Statement:** Support: Medical and surgical treatment for gender dysphoria denies the fundamental truth about the human person being created male and female in the image and likeness of God. “[...]earning to accept our body, to care for it, and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology.” Laudato Si, No. 15. Minors are not capable of giving informed consent to experimental treatment that could lead to irreversible changes to their bodies, and their sexual and reproductive faculties. 03/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/01/2021 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing 03/03/2021 9:00 AM - \*\* REVISED to ADD HB 401 \*\* - House-Children and Families, HR 7

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## Healthy Marriage/Fatherhood Initiative

**Original Bill:** [HB11](#)      **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 11      **Sponsor:** Rep. Cody Smith (R)

**Description:** To appropriate money for the Department of Social Services and several divisions and programs. Section 11.160 provides \$2.5 million for the Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood Initiative program.

**Position Statement:** Support in part: Support Section 11.160 that provides funds for the Healthy Marriage and Fatherhood Initiative program, which encourages stronger marriages and assists absent fathers in reconnecting with their families and children. 03/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations

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## Internet Filters for Adult Content

**Original Bill:** [HB919](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Doug Richey (R)

**Description:** Establishes the Protect Young Minds Online Act, which requires internet service providers to authenticate access to obscene websites.

**Position Statement:** Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content for adults will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/07/2021 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules-Legislative Oversight

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**Original Bill:** [SB336](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

**Description:** Requires internet service providers to authenticate access to obscene websites and provide subscribers the ability to create an authentication to access such websites.

**Position Statement:** Support: Modern technology provides unprecedented access to adult content for both adults and minors. Restricting access to adult content for adults will help keep this offensive and damaging material from reaching children. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/03/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment

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## Non-Licensed Residential Care Facilities

**Original Bill:** [HB557](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HBs 557 & 560    **Sponsor:** Rep. Rudy Veit (R)

**Description:** Establishes provisions relating to the protection of children.

**Position Statement:** Support: Non-licensed residential child care facilities should be held to the same safety standard as licensed facilities as a means of protecting vulnerable youth and adolescents. 03/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Seniors, Families, Children, and Military Affairs

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## Recreational Marijuana

**Original Bill:** [HJR30](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Shamed Dogan (R)

**Description:** Proposes a constitutional amendment legalizing marijuana for adult use.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Legalizing the use of marijuana for recreational purposes poses risks to public safety and to the well-being of Missouri employees and youth. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the "use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense." (CCC No. 2291) The MCC is concerned that legalizing marijuana in this manner will harm the working poor disproportionately and send a message to youth that marijuana use is safe and socially acceptable for recreational purposes. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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## Sex Ed Opt Out

**Original Bill:** [HB786](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Chuck Basye (R)

**Description:** Changes provisions relating to instruction in human sexuality in schools.

**Position Statement:** Support: Legislation affirms the right of parents to direct the education of their children, especially as it relates to the sensitive and challenging issue of human sexuality. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 03/04/2021 H - Referred to House committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

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## Sex Separated Sports

**Original Bill:** [HJR53](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HJR 53    **Sponsor:** Rep. Chuck Basye (R)

**Description:** Proposes a constitutional amendment to protect the integrity of interscholastic athletic contests.

**Position Statement:** Support: This proposed constitutional amendment would ensure fundamental fairness and safety for female athletes seeking to participate in interscholastic sports. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females cooperates with and advances an ideology at odds with proper pedagogy and the dignity of females and female athletes. 3/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/25/2021 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing    03/03/2021 4:30 PM - House-Emerging Issues, HR 3

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## Defend Religious Liberty

## Church Space/Gun Regulations

**Original Bill:** [HB359](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HBs 359 & 634    **Sponsor:** Rep. Ben Baker (R)

**Description:** Changes the law regarding concealed carrying of weapons by allowing firearms in churches and other places of worship with a concealed carry permit.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Bill eliminates prohibition of carrying weapon(s) into church and eliminates requirement that concealed carry permit holder obtain consent of minister to carry a concealed firearm, requiring church to post signage. As part of principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and decide whether or not to allow weapons (concealed or otherwise). 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/11/2021 H - Reported Do Pass - House-Rules-Legislative Oversight

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**Original Bill:** [HB634](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Nick Schroer (R)

**Description:** Changes the law regarding concealed carrying of weapons by allowing firearms in churches and other places of worship with a concealed carry permit.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Bill eliminates prohibition of carrying weapon(s) into church and eliminates requirement that concealed carry permit holder obtain consent of minister to carry a concealed firearm, requiring church to post signage. As part of principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and decide whether or not to allow weapons (concealed or otherwise). 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/01/2021 H - Superseded by HB 359

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**Original Bill:** [HB86](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 86    **Sponsor:** Rep. Jered Taylor (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to the concealed carrying of firearms.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Bill eliminates prohibition of carrying weapon(s) into church and private schools and eliminates requirement that concealed carry permit holder obtain consent of minister to carry a concealed firearm, requiring church to post signage. Bill allows lifetime permit holders to carry in a church without permission of pastor, even if church posts signage. As part of principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and schools and decide whether or not to allow weapons (concealed or otherwise) without posting signs. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing    04/12/2021 12:00 PM - House-Legislative Oversight, HR 4

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**Original Bill:** [SB117](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Eric Burlison (R)

**Description:** Modifies and removes provisions relating to concealed firearms.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Bill eliminates prohibition of carrying weapon(s) into church and private schools and eliminates requirement that concealed carry permit holder obtain consent of minister to carry a concealed firearm, requiring church to post signage. Bill allows lifetime permit holders to carry in a church without permission of pastor, even if church posts signage. As part of principle of religious liberty, churches should continue to have the right to regulate their sacred spaces and schools and decide whether or not to allow weapons (concealed or otherwise) without posting signs. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/21/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on General Laws

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## Immunity for Disclosure of Abuse by Employees

**Original Bill:** [HB141](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Doug Richey (R)

**Description:** Provides immunity from civil liability for disclosures by a charity, nonprofit organization, religious organization, or church of allegations of sexual misconduct.

**Position Statement:** Support: Non-profits should be immune from civil liability when disclosing to other non-profits incidents of abuse previously reported to the state, as required by law, about which the non-profit is a mandatory reporter. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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## Religious Liberty Protections/Campus Organizations

**Original Bill:** [SB332](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Eric Burlison (R)

**Description:** Prohibits public institutions of higher learning from taking certain adverse actions against belief-based student associations based on such association's belief-related leadership requirements.

**Position Statement:** Support: College campus organizations should not be discriminated against and denied access to campus resources based on their religious beliefs or practices. 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/04/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Education

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## Religious Liberty/Infringements

**Original Bill:** [HB275](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Tom Hannegan (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to unlawful discriminatory practices.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria; however, the proposed legislation has potential negative implications for religious liberty, privacy rights, and rights of conscience. This bill would penalize those who believe we are created male and female, violate the privacy and safety rights of women and girls, and the conscience rights of doctors and other medical professionals. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/10/2021 H - Referred to House committee on Children and Families

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**Original Bill:** [HB327](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Keri Ingle (D)

**Description:** Prohibits a child placing agency contracting with the state to provide foster care services from discriminating against a family because of the sexual orientation or gender identity of any family member.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: This bill would penalize faith-based adoption and foster care agencies for their beliefs about the nature and purpose of marriage, infringing upon the free exercise of their religion. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [HB984](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Rasheen Aldridge (D)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to unlawful discriminatory practices.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria; however, the proposed legislation has potential negative implications for religious liberty, privacy rights, and rights of conscience. This bill would penalize those who believe we are created male and female, violate the privacy and safety rights of women and girls, and the conscience rights of doctors and other medical professionals. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/29/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB81](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Greg Razer (D)

**Description:** Modifies provisions governing unlawful discriminatory practices.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: No one should face unjust discrimination, including discrimination for same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria; however, the proposed legislation has potential negative implications for religious liberty, privacy rights, and rights of conscience. This bill would penalize those who believe we are created male and female, violate the privacy and safety rights of women and girls, and the conscience rights of doctors and other medical professionals. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/14/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Small Business and Industry

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## Support Educational Opportunities

### Education Tax Deduction

**Original Bill:** [HB528](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Mike Haffner (R)

**Description:** Authorizes a tax deduction for certain families of children attending private school or a home school.

**Position Statement:** Support: Legislation assists parents in choosing a school for their child that corresponds to their own moral convictions. (Catechism, par. 2229) 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/28/2021 H - Referred to House committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

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### Empowerment Scholarships

**Original Bill:** [SB23](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Andrew Koenig (R)

**Description:** Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/21/2021 S - Superseded by SB 55 SB55

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### Show Me A Brighter Future/Empowerment Scholarships

**Original Bill:** [HB349](#)      **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 349      **Sponsor:** Rep. Phil Christofanelli (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program."

**Position Statement:** Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/25/2021 S - Voted Do Pass - Senate-Education

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**Original Bill:** [HB540](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Rep. Travis Fitzwater (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Show Me A Brighter Future Scholarship Program".

**Position Statement:** Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/02/2021 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing - Elementary and Secondary Education - 02/02/21 - 8:00 am - HR 7

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**Original Bill:** [SB25](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Bill Eigel (R)

**Description:** Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program and modifies provisions related to charter schools.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/21/2021 S - Superseded by SB 55 SB55

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**Original Bill:** [SB251](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Bob Onder (R)

**Description:** Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/28/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Education

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**Original Bill:** [SB296](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Rick Brattin (R)

**Description:** Establishes the Education Savings Account Program.

**Position Statement:** Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/02/2021 S - Voted Do Pass as substituted - Senate-Education

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**Original Bill:** [SB30](#)      **Amended Bill:**      **Sponsor:** Sen. Mike Cierpiot (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Show Me a Brighter Future Scholarship Act".

**Position Statement:** Support: Support intent of legislation to expand educational opportunities to children in need of alternative educational opportunities. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 03/04/2021 S - Reported Do Pass - Senate-Education

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## Reform Criminal Justice

**"Raise the Age"/Juvenile Court Jurisdiction**

**Original Bill:** [HB1242](#)      **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 1242      **Sponsor:** Rep. David Evans (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to juvenile court proceedings.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/08/2021 S - Reported to the Senate and read first time

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**Original Bill:** [HB1293](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. Shamed Dogan (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to the certification of juveniles for trial as an adult.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/25/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB440](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (D)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to juvenile detention.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 04/06/2021 S - Voted Do Pass as substituted - Senate-Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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**Original Bill:** [SB446](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Sen. Barbara Washington (D)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to the certification of juveniles for trial as an adult.

**Position Statement:** Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the U.S. Bishops state: "We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults...society must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are adults - fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution." 02/19/21

**Last Action:** 02/25/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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### Alternative Sentencing for Caregivers

**Original Bill:** [HB531](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rep. David Evans (R)

**Description:** Changes the law regarding probation.

**Position Statement:** Support: In keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, judges should have discretion to sentence nonviolent offenders to local programs that allow offenders to remain in the community and care for their children rather than prison terms that result in children being placed in foster care. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/11/2021 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight

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## Early Parole/Older Inmates

**Original Bill:** [HB277](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 277    **Sponsor:** Rep. Tom Hannegan (R)

**Description:** Authorizes the early parole of certain offenders over the age of sixty-five.

**Position Statement:** Support: Older inmates who have served much of their sentence merit a parole hearing to see if they are rehabilitated and can re-enter society. In A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice (2000), the Catholic Bishops state: "We believe that both victims and offender are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law." 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/24/2021 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight

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## Juvenile Sentence Review

**Original Bill:** [HB1131](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Peter Merideth (D)

**Description:** Specifies the calculation for parole eligibility of minors.

**Position Statement:** Support: Juvenile offenders sentenced as adults to prison should be afforded a reasonable opportunity for parole after a term of years that recognizes their immature developmental state at the time of the offense. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/15/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [HB636](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Nick Schroer (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to sentence review for certain persons.

**Position Statement:** Support: Juvenile offenders sentenced as adults to prison should be afforded a reasonable opportunity for parole after a term of years that recognizes their immature developmental state at the time of the offense. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/07/2021 H - Read Second Time

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## Requiring Mandatory Minimums

**Original Bill:** [HB1194](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Bennie Cook (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Mandatory minimum sentences replace a judge's discretion in sentencing with rigid formulas, which do not always serve the purposes of punishment for crimes. Adding additional offenses for which minimum sentences must be given moves Missouri in the wrong direction and places additional pressure on Missouri's already overcrowded prisons. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 02/19/2021 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB75](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Jason Bean (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms.

**Position Statement:** Oppose: Mandatory minimum sentences replace a judge's discretion in sentencing with rigid formulas, which do not always serve the purposes of punishment for crimes. Adding additional offenses for which minimum sentences must be given moves Missouri in the wrong direction and places additional pressure on Missouri's already overcrowded prisons. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 01/14/2021 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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## Work Opportunities for Prior Offenders

**Original Bill:** [HB316](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to certain persons found guilty of criminal offenses.

**Position Statement:** Support: Offenders should be given a fair opportunity for work after serving their sentences without being burdened by limitations on employment opportunities upon release. 01/22/21

**Last Action:** 04/07/2021 H - Placed on Informal Calendar

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