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Missouri Freedom Caucus Senators Demand SJR 74 Be Immediately Third Read & Finally Passed

JEFFERSON CITY, MO: The Senate Members of the Missouri Freedom Caucus (MOFC) demand that Initiative Petition (IP) Reform, as represented by the current HCS, as amended, for SJR 74 (hereinafter referred to as "SJR 74"), be immediately brought to the Senate Floor for third read and final passage. The House Members of the MOFC support this demand after playing a pivotal role in successfully moving this legislation back to the Senate last week, despite significant opposition, including, most notably, from the House Majority Floor Leader who was the sole House Republican who voted "no" on the bill.

Until the afore-mentioned IP Reform bill is third read and finally passed, and the Defund Planned Parenthood bill (HB 2634) is signed by the Governor, the Senate Members of the MOFC will filibuster any attempt to pass SB 748, otherwise known as the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA) bill. SJR 74 must be passed, and HB 2634 must be signed, before 6pm on May 17th, whereas the FRA is not set to expire until September of this year. Senate and House Leadership have tried and failed to pass IP Reform for many years. Passage of SJR 74, and HB 2634 becoming law, are both imminent and necessary priorities which clearly supersede consideration of the FRA.

IP Reform, designed to prevent further attacks on Missouri's Constitution by an industry of out of state leftwing billionaires and other ill-intentioned special interests both within and without the state, and their endless parades of dark money campaigns designed to circumvent Missouri's General Assembly, is one step away from final passage and being sent to Missouri voters for their consideration. This much needed reform has been the stated "Number One" priority of the Missouri Republican Party, of Republican and conservative grassroots organizations and voters, and of Republican House and Senate Leadership for at least the past seven legislative sessions. For whatever bizarre reason, despite many efforts to pass this stated priority, this reform has always floundered and failed to make it across the finish line.

Beginning in late January, when the Senate MOFC demanded that the stalled IP Reform bills be moved and heard, to the present, it has been obvious that certain members of Senate and House Leadership have had no intention of passing IP Reform this year. The legislation has been slow walked and stalled at every turn. It is only because of the Herculeum actions of the MOFC in both the Senate and the House that IP

reform is the furthest along it has ever been at this point in a legislative session, only needing one more vote to pass, with less than three legislative weeks remaining.

There is no reason for further delay. Either Senate Leadership wants to stop Missouri's Constitution from continued attack by a leftist, billionaire funded, and consultant driven, initiative petition industry or they do not. They either want Missouri's Constitution to have unlimited abortion on demand, ranked choice voting, limitations on Second Amendment rights, and a continuing never-ending parade of leftwing horrors enshrined in it, or they do not. They either want to ensure that only U.S. citizens vote on Missouri constitutional amendment proposals and that foreign countries are forbidden from funding Missouri constitutional amendment efforts, or they do not.

As soon as SJR 74, as amended by the House, is third read and finally passed, and the Governor signs HB 2634, the MOFC will then support Senate action and a full debate on the FRA bill.

Being that IP Reform is once again being stalled by Republican Leadership, with less than three weeks left in the Legislative Session, the MOFC has been clearly vindicated and validated as to all their concerns throughout the Session that certain members of Leadership never wanted IP Reform to pass in the first place. It is time for the gamesmanship to cease and for the Senate to third read and finally pass the HCS for SJR 74.