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Support SJR 8

Senate Joint Resolution No. 8 (SJR 8) proposes an amendment to the Missouri Constitution aimed at protecting unborn life. It seeks to repeal and replace *Section 2 of Article I of the Missouri Constitution* with new language that explicitly includes unborn children as "persons" under the law and removes any constitutional protection or funding requirement for abortion. Below are the key provisions of SJR 8 that address the protection of the unborn:

Key Provisions Protecting the Unborn

1. Definition of "Person":

- The resolution explicitly defines "*person*" to include "*every human being with a unique DNA code regardless of age, including every in utero human child at every stage of biological development from the moment of conception until birth*" (Section 2(1)). This language ensures that unborn children are granted the same rights and protections as any other person under Missouri's Constitution.

2. Exclusion of Abortion Rights:

- SJR 8 states that "*nothing in this constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of an abortion*" (Section 2(2)). This provision explicitly removes any constitutional basis for protecting or funding abortion, reinforcing the state's stance on prioritizing the rights of the unborn.

3. Ballot Language:

- The official summary for voters emphasizes protecting human life with a unique DNA code, regardless of age (Section B). This language is designed to clearly communicate to voters that the amendment is intended to safeguard unborn life from conception.

Implications

By defining "*personhood*" from conception and excluding abortion rights, SJR 8 establishes a constitutional framework that prioritizes the protection of unborn life. It would legally recognize unborn children as individuals entitled to equal protection under Missouri law, effectively restricting abortion access and reinforcing pro-life policies within the state.

All life is valuable and deserves protection. We strongly urge that SJR 8 be passed!