
SB 749 Veto Override Talking Points

- It's not about free pills it's about religious liberty.
- No one should be forced to pay for abortions or abortion drugs in their health plan.
- SB 749 respects the rights of conscience of **all** Missouri citizens.
 - Those who oppose paying for abortions or contraceptives can exclude this coverage from their health plan.
 - Those who want contraceptives have a legal right to purchase from the insurer and the insurer must provide this coverage.

EXAMPLE: If a business owner opts out of contraceptive coverage, an employee still has a legal right to purchase this coverage and the insurer has a legal obligation to provide it. In practice, an employee will most likely not pay a higher premium for contraceptive coverage, but simply a nominal co-pay, as they do with other prescription drugs.

- SB 749 protects the religious liberties of insurance consumers in two ways:
 - It asserts that no government entity can compel someone to pay for a health plan that covers abortion, contraceptives and sterilizations; and,
 - It requires insurance companies to write policies that exclude abortion and contraceptive coverage if this violates the customer's moral or religious beliefs.

EXAMPLE: Even if the federal government rescinds the HHS mandate that requires health plans to cover abortion drugs, contraceptives etc, insurance companies could still refuse to write policies that exclude these items. If made state law, however, SB 749 will require insurers to exclude these items when it violates the religious or moral beliefs of the customer.

- SB 749 gives Missouri the legal tools to challenge the HHS mandate that forces health plans to include abortion drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations. The state attorney general can sue in federal court.

- It is true that federal law trumps state law. But the HHS mandate is unconstitutional; it violates the First Amendment's protection of religious freedom; the MCC is confident it will be overturned. SB 749 will be vindicated as good law, in keeping with the religious liberty protections of the First Amendment.
- SB 749 does **not** repeal the mandate that insurance companies offer contraceptive coverage; Governor Nixon is misreading the bill.
- Planned Parenthood claims to be pro-choice but for them choice is a one-way street: they want to force everyone to pay for abortion and abortion drugs.
- In a free and robust society there should be room for people of faith to practice their faith; SB 749 protects rights of conscience.