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MISSOURI ROUNDTABLE FOR LIFE FILES FEDERAL LAWSUIT AGAINST CARNAHAN AND MONTEE FOR ABUSE OF POWER

Carnahan and Montee Consistently and Systematically Violated MRFL's Constitutional Rights

St. Louis – December 10, 2009 – This morning, Missouri Roundtable For Life filed suit in the United States District Court, Eastern District, against Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and State Auditor Susan Montee for abusing their power in violating Missouri Roundtable For Life's constitutional rights, including the right to free speech, equal protection under the law and right to due process, each time MRFL filed a common sense ballot initiative to protect Missouri taxpayer dollars.

The complaint filed in St. Louis (and attached to this email) alleges that Carnahan and Montee "intentionally engaged in a systematic, persistent and continuous campaign of unlawfully and inaccurately manipulating initiative petition language so as to mislead and confuse Missouri voters and to create prejudice against [MRFL's] proposed constitutional amendments . . . [.]” The complaint details the full extent of Carnahan and Montee's manipulation of the words of each of MRFL's proposed initiative petitions by showing side-by-side comparisons of MRFL's proposed summary statements and Carnahan's official summary statements. One such outrageous example is the Restoration of Legislative Control Amendment which is as follows:

(a) Plaintiffs' Summary Statement

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended so that nothing in Section 38(d) of Article III of the Missouri Constitution shall be construed as limiting in any way the powers of the Missouri general assembly to appropriate, eliminate, reduce, deny, or withhold any public funds?

(b) Secretary's Summary Statement

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to repeal current provisions approved by voters in 2006 which guaranteed Missouri patients access to stem cell therapies and cures and permitted researchers to conduct stem cell research in accordance with federal law by:

- allowing the Missouri legislature or state officials to eliminate, reduce or deny access to state funds for institutions involved in stem cell research, therapies and cures; and
- allowing the Missouri legislature or state officials to ban or limit the access of Missourians to stem cell research, therapies and cures?

"This lawsuit is an attempt by Missouri Roundtable For Life to hold Carnahan and Montee accountable for their flagrant abuse of their responsibility to fairly and impartially handle citizen groups' initiative petitions," said MRFL attorney Matt Hearne of Hearne and Bendick LLC. "Both Carnahan and Montee have used their offices to stand in the way of Missouri Roundtable For Life putting forth reasonable and common sense ideas before Missouri voters. Missouri Roundtable For Life has done everything it can to follow the law, yet Carnahan and Montee have so manipulated the process against MRFL that it is impossible for them to exercise their constitutional rights."

"For the past 18 months, Missouri Roundtable For Life has tried to give Missouri voters a chance to limit taxpayer dollars from paying for abortions and human cloning," said Fred N. Sauer, MRFL Board Chairman. "We look forward to our day in court and a full exposition of the all the facts, people, documents and other evidence involved in denying Missouri Roundtable For Life the right to directly speak to the voters."

To learn more about the Missouri Roundtable for Life, please visit www.moroundtable.org

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