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**MRFL Applauds Missouri House in Limiting Tax Dollars Flowing to Abortion Services and Other Research**

*Budget Chair Icet Places Restrictions on Funding*

St Louis – April 1, 2009 - Missouri Roundtable For Life applauds the Missouri House under the leadership of House Budget Chairman Allen Icet in passing House Bill 7, the appropriation bill funding several state departments and the Life Sciences Trust Fund, with restrictions on the use of those funds. The Missouri House passed House Bill 7 with the restrictions by an overwhelming 114 to 37 vote.

A recent ruling by Cole County Court Judge Richard Callahan made clear in his final order and judgment that:

- 1) Each year, the legislature may restrict the appropriation to the Life Sciences Research Trust Fund so that tax dollars do not go to abortion and other research;
- 2) The legislature is under no obligation to fund human cloning research which is sometimes called embryonic stem cell research; and
- 3) The restrictive language of the Life Sciences Research Trust Fund that stops tax dollars from going to abortion services, human cloning or other ethically charged research has been struck down, and the Missouri legislature will have to address the issue each year during the appropriation process unless a Constitutional amendment is passed.

Following this decision, MRFL sent House Budget Chairman Icet a letter clarifying that the Missouri legislature could restrict funding for the Life Sciences Research Trust Fund.

"We congratulate all 114 members of the Missouri House in choosing to protect the taxpayers from having to use state tax dollars for abortion services, human cloning and other objectionable research," said MRFL Executive Director Todd Jones. "Chairman Icet deserves credit for his stewardship in making the restrictions in H.B. 7 strong and clear. Missouri Roundtable For Life strongly urges the Missouri Senate to pass these restrictions as soon as possible."