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# Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - We March for Life

JANUARY 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - We March for Life

## **Congressman Smith Capitol Report**

### **We March for Life**

January 19, 2018

This week, hundreds of thousands of Americans came to our nation's Capital to March for Life. Sadly, we have lost more than 60 million lives in the United States since abortion became legal and Roe v. Wade was upheld by the Supreme Court 45 years ago. That is 60 million less lives which could have grown up to find the cure to cancer, discovered new sources of energy, become an astronaut or the next President of the United States. But more than likely, many of those lives would have had a smaller - but just as noble - role in life. Maybe those aborted babies would have grown up to be the 3rd grade teacher at your local elementary school, a small business owner on Main Street, a brave member of our military, or raised families of their own.

I was in Cuba, Missouri when I met Gianna Jessen. Gianna was almost one of these millions of lives lost, but was saved by a nurse after surviving an abortion and being born alive. Gianna has had a life filled of uphill battles and complications from the attempted abortion, but she has courageously chosen to dedicate her life to fighting for the unborn and their right to life. This week, I met Kelsey and her twin girls. Kelsey is from south central Missouri, and bravely defended the lives of her unborn babies when she was pressured into an abortion. Through the compassionate care of the Rolla Pregnancy

Center, Kelsey was able to receive the support she needed to carry her children to term.

I have voted repeatedly and consistently to make sure that no taxpayer funds are used for abortions and instead, I have supported pregnancy resource centers like the Pregnancy Center in Rolla and Birthright in Cape Girardeau who protect innocent lives and provide critical resources to mothers and families. I have spent time with them, and I can tell you first hand that they are putting tax dollars to good use and using them to protect unborn babies' right to life and help mothers like Kelsey fight for their children.

The right to life must extend to every innocent human being, through every stage of life, and I am committed to defending that right. It is because of this commitment that this week, we marched for people like Gianna, Kelsey and her daughters. We march because every innocent life is precious and deserves a chance in this world. We march because our Constitution guarantees all Americans an inalienable right to life. We also march for people like Micah.

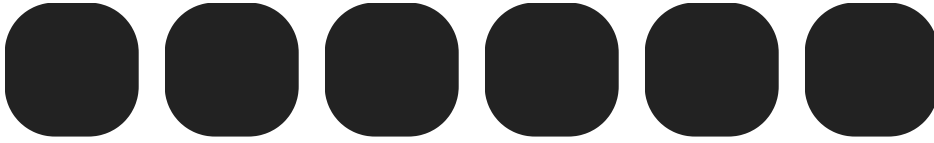
Micah was born prematurely at just 20-weeks and survived. After his birth, Micah's family boldly pushed Congress to outlaw 20-week abortions. Micah is now a thriving, healthy five-year-old and is living proof that children born as young as 20-weeks have the potential to grow up and live completely normal lives. I was honored to help author and pass "Micah's Law" to stop 20-week abortions for babies like Micah who could feel pain and survive outside of the womb. While this bill was a step in the right direction, there is more work to be done.

Standing next to over a hundred Missourians in town this week to join the March for Life was a feeling of inspiration and commitment to protecting the rights of the unborn which I won't soon forget. While the protection of the unborn is an ongoing battle around the country, we must lay the foundation for a society that does not accept abortion as a form of birth control. Open hearts and open minds can heal our nation and change abortions into adoptions. We must join together to pray for the protection of the unborn. The intersection of prayer and action can produce amazing results. I know we can accomplish our goals, and innocent human life can be saved.

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## Herman Morse Assigned to Committees at MO Capitol

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### Herman Morse Assigned to Committees at MO Capitol

Jefferson City, Missouri - Herman Morse of Dexter has settled into his new role as the District 151 State Representative after being sworn into office on January 10, 2018.

He will serve on three separate committees while representing District 151 in the Missouri State House of Representatives.

Morse will serve on the Agriculture Policy, Corrections, and Public Institutions and Consent and House Procedures committees.

He will serve with 12 other representatives on the Agriculture Policy Committee. There are ten total members on the Policy Committee and there are 13 on the Consent and House Procedures Committee.

You can contact Herman Morse at (573) 751-1494 or (573) 820-7502.

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## Local Democrats Meet in Dexter

JANUARY 25TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Local Democrats Meet in Dexter

Dexter, Missouri - The Stoddard County Democrat Club met on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 11 N. Walnut Street in Dexter. Harold Gibson, opened the meeting with a prayer. Richard Wilson lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kay Wooley presented the secretary's report and Ruth Gibson informed members of the upcoming meetings and speakers including brenda Schnader of Poplar Bluff, Tom Bischof speaking for V.A.N. Voter Access Network, and Mike Moroni.

Peter Beaudry will serve as the new treasurer, replacing Ruth Gibson, who will still have a presence at the meetings, but will no long serve in that capacity.

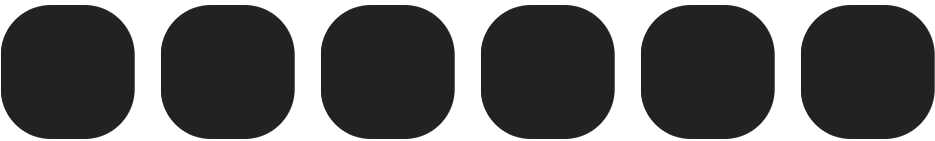
Members learned that their president, Peggy Barks, is doing well as she battles cancer.

Article submitted by Theatta Cokley.

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# Herman Morse Sworn in as New 151st District State Representative

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Herman Morse Sworn in as New 151st District State Representative

Jefferson City, Missouri - Dexter resident Herman Morse is shown inside the state capital in Jefferson City on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 as he takes the oath of office to serve as Missouri's District 151 State Representative.

Morse won the November 2017 special election after Representative Tila Hubrecht resigned from the post at mid-term.

Morse will complete the term in 2018 and must run in the November 2018 election to retain his seat for two more years.

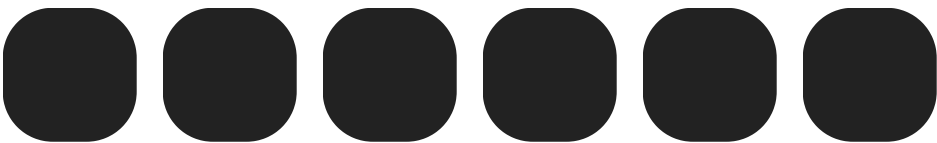
Pictured are Missouri House Speaker Todd Richardson, (R) Poplar Bluff administers the oath of office to Rep. Elect Herman Morse (R) Dexter, as Rep. Steve Cookson, (R) Poplar Bluff watches on.

Photo credit to Tim Bommel, Photojournalist, Missouri State Capitol, Rm. B-32, Jefferson City, MO

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# From the Office of Doug Libla

JANUARY 18TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

From the Office of Doug Libla

## **ELECTRIC UTILITIES ARE AT IT AGAIN!**

Contact: Ashley Bax (573) 751-4843

Jefferson City, Missouri - Ameren, and other electric utilities are promoting Senate Bill 564 as legislation that is desperately needed for electric consumers.

Let's quickly examine the facts of the bill:

1. Senate Bill 564 removes discretion from the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) to decide important ratemaking issues. The PSC is the only consumer protection agency against monopolies. This bill adopts ratemaking mechanisms that greatly benefit utilities with even higher profits and all classes of customers will experience much higher electric rates;
2. The PSC has previously rejected ratemaking mechanisms in this bill, such as surcharged increases in transmission costs, tracked property taxes and cybersecurity costs. So, while a utility is earning more than its authorized profit, these trackers treat the utility as if it was actually earning less than authorized, and then pass the tracked increases on to future ratepayers – pretty tricky;
3. Senate Bill 564 also adopts another PSC-rejected ratemaking mechanism which is plant-in-service-accounting (PISA). The purpose of PISA is to eliminate regulatory lag, the most significant financial incentive a monopoly utility has to curb its costs. The PSC previously rejected Ameren's request for PISA, referring to it as "a solution in search of a problem";
4. Proponents of Senate Bill 564 argue the bill's rate increase "caps" will benefit consumers by limiting average annual rate increases to no more than 3 percent. Truth is... the bill does not include any rate increase caps, there are merely rate increase milestones above which the utilities still collect the inflated rates. Utilities could, conceivably, increase rates by any amount per year and the only consequence would be a penalty that would be much smaller than the extra collections;
5. The rate increase milestones for large industrial customers is different in that the other customers must, for five years, subsidize the industrials by paying even greater rate increases in order to hold the large industrials' increases to 2 percent. Ameren's last approved rate increase was 3.5 percent which averaged 1.75 percent per year;

In summary, Senate Bill 564 WILL INCREASE ALL RATEPAYERS' ELECTRIC RATES, but will increase small and average customers' rates the most. Dozens of lobbyists are well paid to represent the monopoly utilities; we are paid to represent our constituents.

THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE FOX MANAGING THE CHICKEN HOUSE.

JUST ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DIMINISH THE OVERSIGHT OF THE PSC.

THIS BILL DOES NOTHING FOR THE GRID.

IT IS ALL ABOUT THE GREED!

Doug Libla, Missouri Senator (District 25)

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