

2015 Legislative Accountability Rating

2015 Senate Votes

Senate Vote 1

S.F. 1458: HHS omnibus bill

Floor:Amendment (Licensing and Inspection of Abortion Facilities)

Sen. Michelle Fischbach, R-Paynesville, introduced a bill to require facilities that perform 10 or more abortions per month to be licensed and inspected by the state. Unfortunately, the Senate never gave it a hearing. Understanding the importance of the legislation, Sen. Fischbach offered the language of the bill as an amendment to the Health and Human Services omnibus finance bill, S.F. 1458. MCCL supported the Fischbach amendment, but it was defeated 29-32 (pro-life loss).

Senate Vote 2

H.F. 1535: HHS omnibus policy bill

Floor:Amendment (Ban on taxpayer funding of abortion)

Similarly, Sen. Lyle Koenen, DFL-Clara City, had introduced a bill to prohibit taxpayer funding of abortion. His bill was also refused a hearing, but he offered the language as an amendment the Health and Human Services omnibus policy bill. Sen. Ron Latz, DFL-St. Louis Park, questioned the germaneness of the amendment. The President ruled that the amendment was not germane; Sen. David Hann, R-Eden Prairie, appealed the decision of the President. The Senate voted on whether or not to support the President's decision, which was upheld 33-27, defeating the amendment (pro-life loss).

Senate Vote 3

S.F. 214: Electioneering Communications

Committee: Rules and Administration Subcommittee on Elections

S.F. 214, authored by Sen. Jim Carlson, DFL-Eagan, was an updated version of a campaign finance bill from the previous legislative session. Included in this complicated bill were two main provisions of concern to MCCL:

1) "Express advocacy" definition change: The bill sought to expand the definition of express advocacy. Currently, express advocacy has a clear legal definition in Minnesota. The change would have created a subjective definition, allowing the Campaign Finance and Campaign Disclosure Board to decide which expenditures fit within the definition.

2) Electioneering communications: This provision declares many non-election communications as "electioneering communications" merely because they are disseminated within a specified timeframe prior to an election. It additionally places cumbersome and chilling reporting requirements on these communications. This is the provision that MCCL most strongly objected to.

MCCL strongly opposed S.F. 214, which was approved by the committee 4-1 (pro-life loss).

Senate Vote 4

S.F. 113: Equal Rights Amendment Resolution to Congress

Floor:Amendment (Make ERA abortion-neutral)

Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul, authored a resolution in bill form, S.F. 113, relating to the ratification of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, specifically asking Congress to remove the deadline for ratification of the amendment by the states. Because equal rights amendments have been used in other states by courts to establish a right to abortion in state constitutions, Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer, R-Big Lake, offered an amendment to urge making the amendment abortion-neutral. MCCL supported the Kiffmeyer amendment, which was defeated 28-34 (pro-life loss).



Senator	Dist #	% #1	% #2	1	2	3	4	Senator	Dist #	% #1	% #2	1	2	3	4
Anderson, Bruce	29	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Lourey, Tony	11	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Bakk, Thomas (Tom)	3	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Marty, John	66	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Benson, Michelle	31	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Metzen, James	52	0%	0%	o	e	-	e
Bonoff, Terri	44	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Miller, Jeremy	28	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Brown, Dave	15	33%	100%	x	e	-	e	Nelson, Carla	26	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Carlson, Jim	51	0%	0%	o	o	o	o	Newman, Scott	18	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Chamberlain, Roger	38	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Nienow, Sean	32	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Champion, Bobby Joe	59	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Ortman, Julianne	47	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Clausen, Greg	57	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Osmeck, David	33	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Cohen, Dick	64	0%	0%	o	n	o	o	Pappas, Sandy	65	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Dahle, Kevin	20	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Pederson, John	14	67%	100%	e	x	-	x
Dahms, Gary	16	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Petersen, Branden	35	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Dibble, Scott	61	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Pratt, Eric	55	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Dziedzic, Kari	60	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Reinert, Roger	7	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Eaton, Chris	40	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Rest, Ann	45	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Eken, Kent	4	50%	67%	x	o	n	x	Rosen, Julie	23	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Fischbach, Michelle	13	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Ruud, Carrie	10	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Franzen, Melisa	49	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Saxhaug, Tom	5	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Gazelka, Paul	9	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Scalze, Bev	42	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Goodwin, Barb	41	0%	0%	e	o	-	o	Schmit, Matt	21	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Hall, Dan	56	75%	100%	x	x	n	x	Senjem, David	25	33%	100%	x	e	-	e
Hann, David	48	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Sheran, Kathy	19	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Hawj, Foug	67	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Sieben, Katie	54	0%	0%	o	o	o	o
Hayden, Jeff	62	0%	0%	e	o	n	o	Skoe, Rod	2	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Hoffman, John	36	0%	0%	o	o	o	o	Sparks, Dan	27	67%	100%	x	x	-	n
Housley, Karin	39	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Stumpf, LeRoy	1	33%	100%	x	e	-	e
Ingebrigtsen, Bill	8	67%	100%	e	x	-	x	Thompson, Dave	58	100%	100%	x	x	-	x
Jensen, Vicki	24	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Tomassoni, David	6	0%	0%	o	n	-	o
Johnson, Alice	37	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Torres Ray, Patricia	63	0%	0%	e	o	-	o
Kent, Susan	53	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Weber, Bill	22	67%	100%	e	x	-	x
Kiffmeyer, Mary	30	75%	100%	x	x	n	x	Westrom, Torrey	12	67%	100%	x	e	-	x
Koenen, Lyle	17	100%	100%	x	x	-	x	Wiger, Chuck	43	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Latz, Ron	46	0%	0%	o	o	-	o	Wiklund, Melissa	50	0%	0%	o	o	-	o
Limmer, Warren	34	100%	100%	x	x	x	x								

Key for Legislative Accountability Rating Charts

- x** Voted for the pro-life position
- o** Voted against the pro-life position
- e** Legislator was excused from session
- n** Legislator was present but chose not to cast that particular vote

There are two ratings (percentages) for each vote. While MCCL believes that the business of legislators is legislating, it recognizes that there are some valid excuses for a member's absence, such as illness.

% #1

Percentage of time the legislator's vote supported MCCL's position. In this case an "e" or "n" vote (meaning the legislator did not vote) is considered a vote against MCCL's position.

% #2

Percentage of time the legislator voted "with" MCCL when he/she voted. In this case, the "e" or "n" vote is not counted.