

For immediate release
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May 17, 2007
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Feminists Groups Finally Hear the Cries of Women Experiencing Stillbirth
Pro-choice groups dropping opposition to the MISSing Angels Bill

Since 2001, MISS Foundation's volunteers in various states have faced opposition to the MISSing Angels Bill from various pro-choice groups concerned by the proposed legislation. It has taken years and years of education, tenacity, and outcry: finally, the united voices of mothers of stillborn babies is being heard. Stateline, one of the internet's most esteemed sources of political news, has published an article on the MISS Foundation's efforts with the MISSing Angels Bill. In the article, representatives from both state and national pro-choice groups are cited stating they would support or at the least remain neutral on these legislative efforts:

"We are not opposing these bills. We are an organization that seeks to protect women's ability to make their own choices throughout their pregnancy. If they want to have a certificate of stillbirth, we support them," said Sondra Goldscheine of the ACLU in the Stateline article. The reporter continues "Representatives of national abortion-rights organizations, including the Guttmacher Institute, the Center for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project and NARAL Pro-Choice America told Stateline.org they take a neutral position on the stillborn birth-certificate issue."

"We are hopeful that the remaining 31 states will pass with relative ease now that the opposition has changed their positions," said Joanne Cacciatore, CEO of the MISS Foundation and a social scientist who studies the effects of stillbirth on women. "It is important for many, many women from an emotional, psychological, and epidemiological perspective...and this is about advocating for these mothers."

Cacciatore notes that this paradigm shift in attitudes toward stillborn babies comes, in large part, as a result of a cooperative social movement between the MISS Foundation and other grassroots groups that provide support and resources to families experiencing infant and child death. "We are not going away," Cacciatore continues. "We are prepared to take our stand. It is the least we can do for these children and their families." You can read the entire article here: <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=208701>

You can also watch the MISS Foundation's provocative, public service announcement intended to raise awareness and educate opposition on this legislative effort: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=ZNvTDTK-0Jk>

For more information you can visit missingangelsbill.org or for support after a child's death visit missfoundation.org.