



Freedom Principle MO Applauds Missouri House Republicans on Approval of Initiative Petition Reform – Calls on Senate to Act Immediately to Protect Our Constitution

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Freedom Principle MO applauds the Missouri House Republicans for approving the House Substitute version of SJR 74, an initiative petition reform bill that will make it more difficult to amend Missouri's Constitution. "The Freedom Principle MO, along with other grassroots organizations, have been working for the past three years to pass initiative petition reform to protect Missouri's Constitution from out-of-state, dark money groups trying to change our constitution," says Byron Keelin, President of the Freedom Principle MO. "The bill, SJR 74, has one more major hurdle to clear in the Missouri Senate before it can be presented to the voters in August."

The House Substitute version of SJR 74 heads back to the Missouri Senate for a final vote. "We are calling on Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman (Dist. 22) to immediately motion to third read and pass the bill and not let it go to a conference committee," said Keelin. Senator Coleman was the sponsor of the original Senate version of SJR 74 and told the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee that if the House fixed the original bill, she would do everything she could to make sure the bill gets passed in the Senate. "Senator Coleman claims to be a champion for pro-life," said Keelin. "Should she allow this bill to go to a Conference Committee, she is signaling to her colleagues and Missourians she is willing to kill the bill and also to kill 50 years of pro-life legislation."

The immediacy of passing SJR 74 is necessary because the pro-abortion-on-demand crowd is close to getting enough signatures to put their radical abortion petition on the November ballot. "If this pro-abortion on-demand dark money group gets their petition on the November ballot and we have not passed SJR 74, Missouri could become a blue state overnight," said Keelin. "This means four more years of Joe Biden. This means a Democrat governor and a Democrat legislature. It also means that abortion-on-demand will be embedded into our Constitution with no mechanism to change it."

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The House Substitute version of SJR 74, if approved by the Senate and voters, will prohibit non-citizens from voting on any proposed ballot initiatives, prohibit any foreign government or political party from sponsoring or donating money or in-kind contributions in support of a ballot initiative, and it will require the use of Concurrent Majority Ratification, a process that would require voter approval in five of eight U.S. congressional district to enact a new constitutional amendment. The Concurrent Majority Ratification is an extra step that will give all Missourians an equal voice in approving all Constitutional amendments.

“The Concurrent Majority Ratification is the most equitable way to ensure all Missourians have a say when it comes to amending our Constitution,” said Keelin. “Our current approval system gives all the power to large population areas like St. Louis and Kansas City,” said Keelin. “When you look at the map of Amendment 3, legalization of Marijuana, from the 2022 election, had we been required to use Concurrent Majority Ratification, the amendment would have failed. Amendment 3 passed in the urban areas but was overwhelmingly rejected in the rural areas of our state.”

There are less than 15 days left in this legislative session to pass SJR 74. “The Senate must act as soon as possible to ensure this important legislation doesn’t get bogged down in special interest politics like a lot of other legislation typically does,” says Keelin. “This is an opportunity for Senator Coleman. She can be a champion for pro-life or forever be known as the Senator who allowed Missouri to become a pro-abortion state.”

The Freedom Principle MO is encouraging Missourians to call Senator Coleman’s office at 573-751-1492 or e-mail her office at maryelizabeth.coleman@senate.mo.gov and tell her to immediately motion to third read and pass SJR 74.

The Freedom Principle MO is a pro-citizen, pro-Missouri First organization. We are a membership-based 501(c)4 organization, acting locally and state-wide, to protect our families and our constitutionally protected liberties. We are fighting for America. We are fighting for Missouri. We are fighting for you. For more information about the Freedom Principle MO visit our website at www.freedomprinciplemo.org.

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