

Concerned but Hopeful

December 31, 2024. The end of 2024 has left me confused and concerned. On December 20, Jackson County Judge Jerri Zhang entered a preliminary injunction declaring that the following current Missouri Abortion statutes and regulations were **unconstitutional** and therefore **prohibited** from enforcement:

1. The ban on abortion unless necessary for the health and safety of the mother.
2. The ban on abortions based on a diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

So, the life of the unborn child is of no consequence. Missouri already protects a mother's life over the child's if a choice must be made, but giving a woman carte blanche to decide if her child is born based on non-life-threatening circumstances is reckless.

3. The requirement that the doctor performing the abortion has admitting privileges in a nearby hospital.
4. The requirement that abortion facilities have an abortion complication plan.
5. The requirement that fetal remains be sent to a pathologist after an abortion to ensure that the abortion was complete.

Aren't these just common sense health precautions for any procedure? What makes abortion the sacred cow that throws all sensible precaution to the wind?

6. The informed consent requirements that ensure that women receive information relating to the stage of fetal development of their unborn child prior to the abortion.
7. The 72-hour waiting and reflection period between the first appointment and the abortion.
8. The requirement that a) the abortion pill be taken in the presence of the physician who prescribed it and b) a follow up visit.

These regulations show basic respect for women, insuring that they are resolute in their decision. It appears that the same women who get complete say over the fate of the life within them cannot be trusted with information that may alter their position. Taking these requirements away can result in a woman feeling rushed and pressured. What is the abortion industry so afraid of?

And why are so many women falling for it? I thought we were smarter than this, more intuitive. Yet we are being duped by the abortion industry and blinded by false narratives. Fighting for the right to harm ourselves and the offspring we were designed to nurture makes us look misled, misinformed, or incompetent. None of which is a good look on us. Ladies on the left rant that men have no say in the abortion debate, but the often rabid and delusional discourse they produce may make the case that they need men to protect them from themselves, rather than men rendered spineless in agreement with them. Our communities, states, and nation need to hear the strong, informed voices of pro-life men and women!

January 1, 2025. It's just another day, yet there is something about new beginnings that fill us with HOPE and RENEWAL. In light of 2024, I would like to add PERSEVERENCE to the list of words to embrace in the new year.

- Isaiah 40:31 encapsulates all of these traits: *"but those who **hope** in the Lord will **renew** their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."* What a wonderful blueprint and promise as we move forward into another chapter of our lives.
- Romans 5:3-4 gives us a picture of hope being the *result* of perseverance, rather than the catalyst for renewal: *"...we know that suffering produces **perseverance**; perseverance, character; and character, **hope**."*
- Isaiah 57:10 also talks about perseverance leading to hope and resulting in renewal: *"You wearied yourself by such going about, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found **renewal** of your strength, and so you did not faint."*
- Romans 12:2 and Hebrews 12:1 both exhort us to experience renewal *in order to* persevere.

Perhaps the key here is not to follow a certain formula, but to focus on one trait, and the rest will follow. Perseverance may be in short supply for some of us, while hope is more difficult for others. Nevertheless, we can be renewed. Thank you for your partnership in 2024 and I pray we can continue to be effective ambassadors for life in 2025!

