



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

**News Release**

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For immediate release:

**Feb. 26, 2009**

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## **MCCL supports call to increase Positive Alternatives grant funds to help women**

*Thousands of pregnant women have been helped, but many more left without services*

ST. PAUL – Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) has given its strong support to expanded funding for the Positive Alternatives program to help pregnant women in need. Thousands more women would receive vital services each year under the proposal introduced today.

“Positive Alternatives has been a highly efficient and effective use of state funds to meet the real needs of women,” said Scott Fischbach, MCCL Executive Director. “Pregnant women are being empowered and given hope for their futures and their families.”

The life-affirming measure, H.F. 1093, is authored by Rep. Larry Hosch, DFL-St. Joseph. A companion bill will be introduced later in the Senate.

[Positive Alternatives](#) was passed by the Legislature in 2005 to establish a grant program through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Grants are given to life-affirming organizations offering essential services in the following areas: medical attention for the woman and the unborn child, nutritional services, housing assistance, adoption services, education and employment assistance, child care assistance, and parenting education and support services.

Cradle of Hope, Roseville, uses its Positive Alternatives grant to provide essential financial help to women facing unexpected pregnancies. “We have been able to protect hundreds of women from homelessness and abuse through our Positive Alternatives-funded services,” said Mary Sand of Cradle of Hope, which works with 270 agencies statewide.

A total of 37 organizations received \$4.75 million in two-year grants in 2006. However, MDH received grant requests for more than double that amount, revealing a much greater need for services. More than 12,000 women were helped through the first round of grants, according to MDH. The second round of grants was awarded in July 2008.

“These services need to be delivered to many more women in need across the state,” said Fischbach. “Provider agencies are able to stretch their grant funds to help an enormous number of clients, but lack of financial resources limits many other agencies from offering services to pregnant women.”

[Read more](#) at MCCL’s Web site about how these organizations are providing life-affirming support to pregnant women in need, both before and after their babies are born.

MCCL is Minnesota’s oldest and largest pro-life organization with more than 70,000 member families and 240 chapters across the state. For more information about MCCL, visit [www.mccl.org](http://www.mccl.org).

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*Minnesota’s oldest and largest pro-life organization, MCCL has been dedicated for 40 years to the single issue of life itself.*