



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

News Release

www.mccl.org

For immediate release:

March 30, 2009

For more information, contact:

Bill Poehler, 612-825-6831 or 612-702-9620

MCCL supports new legislation to ban coerced abortions

Bill seeks to end use of force and violence against pregnant women

ST. PAUL – Coerced abortions would be banned under new state legislation introduced today with the strong backing of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL).

“Coerced abortions are one of the ugly secrets of the abortion industry,” said MCCL Legislative Associate Jordan Marie Bauer. “Women should never, ever be forced into a decision to abort their unborn child—not by parents, the baby’s father, abortionists or anyone else.”

The legislation to ban coerced abortions, H.F. 2228 / S.F. 1989, is authored by Rep. John Ward, DFL-Brainerd, and Sen. Michelle Fischbach, R-Paynesville.

Research has brought to light the grim reality of [forced abortion](#) and the damage it inflicts upon women. Studies of post-abortive women reveal that 64 percent of abortions involve some sort of coercion against the mother’s will. A total of 45 percent of men interviewed at abortion clinics recalled urging their pregnant partner to abort, including 37 percent of married men. Research also shows that teenagers are at higher risk for becoming victims of coerced abortion.

Although coercion can escalate to violence (homicide is the leading cause of death for pregnant women), it takes many forms. Some parents threaten to disown their pregnant teenage daughter unless she aborts her baby. Men sometimes give their pregnant wives or girlfriends an ultimatum: “Abort our child or I will leave you.” Some vulnerable women are pressured by abortion centers to abort their unborn babies.

Forced abortion is a Minnesota issue. In 1995, a pregnant employee at Duluth Little Stores was mistreated and threatened by a supervisor in an attempt to force the employee to abort her baby. The boss even threatened to push her down a flight of stairs when she was six months pregnant. The Elliot Institute has compiled hundreds of similar stories from across the country.

“Forced abortion is a very real threat to pregnant women,” Bauer said. “This crucial legislation protects the rights of women and seeks to restore respect and safety for pregnant women. This bill deserves the support of all lawmakers, regardless of their position on abortion.”

The ban on coerced abortions would require women be informed that no one can force them to abort their child. To stop unwanted abortions from occurring, the bill would offer women help to remove themselves from dangerous situations where coercion exists and would establish civil and criminal penalties for anyone who forces a woman to abort.

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.

Please subscribe to our [RSS Feed](#).

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