



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

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## News Release

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# Taxpayer funded abortions upheld in Minnesota House, Senate votes

*State representatives vote 66-66, senators 26-39 on ban of public funding of abortion*

ST. PAUL – The Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives today refused to ban taxpayer funded abortions. In separate votes, members of each chamber voted down legislation to ban taxpayer funded abortions, which cost taxpayers \$1.58 million in 2007.

“State lawmakers failed to correct the abortion industry’s egregious misuse of taxpayer funds,” said MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach. “Voting to force taxpayers to pay for elective abortions is not a middle-ground position for any lawmaker; it is extreme.”

State senators voted 26-39 to defeat an amendment to ban taxpayer funded abortions this afternoon. Minutes earlier, House members voted 66-66 on nearly identical language; two pro-life House members were not present for the vote. Rep. Patti Fritz, DFL-Faribault, offered the amendment in the House. Both votes were on amendments to omnibus Health and Human Services bills.

Taxpayers have been forced to pay for abortions since the Minnesota Supreme Court’s 1995 *Doe v. Gomez* ruling found a “right” to abortion in the Minnesota Constitution and also required taxpayers to fund abortions for low-income women. Taxpayers have paid for the killing of 47,115 unborn children since the decision, according to the [latest report](#) on taxpayer funding of abortion from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).

Taxpayers paid for 28.3 percent of all abortions performed in Minnesota in 2007.

Minnesota abortionists filed claims for 3,914 abortion reimbursements totaling \$1,582,193 for the year 2007, the DHS reported. Since the *Doe v. Gomez* ruling, taxpayers have paid \$14,126,689 for abortions. Prior to the court decision, Minnesota law limited taxpayer funding of abortion to cases of reported rape, incest and life of the mother. In 1993, this amounted to about \$7,000 for 23 abortions.

“Polls continue to show that most Minnesotans and most Americans are opposed to taxpayer funded abortions, yet they continue to be forced to pay for them,” Fischbach said. “Taxpayers will be very interested to learn how their elected officials voted on requiring taxpayers to pay for abortions.”

MCCL continues to work to pass a ban on taxpayer funded abortions, H.F. 1059 / S.F. 906, authored by Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba, DFL-Long Prairie, and Sen. Claire Robling, R-Jordan.

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.*