



Reproductive Health Services of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region v. Parson (8th Cir.)

Topics Covered: Reproductive Health & Abortion

Issue

The issue in this case is whether a Missouri statute that prohibits abortions if the abortion provider knows that the woman is seeking the abortion solely because the unborn child is likely to have Down Syndrome or because the abortion provide knows that the abortion is sought solely because of the sex or race of the unborn child.

AMA Interest

The AMA believes physicians should have the right to provide medical care, including abortion procedures, according to their best medical judgment and according to accepted medical standards. The AMA further believes that physicians' paramount responsibilities are to their patients.

Case Summary

An abortion clinic sued to have the law declared invalid, and the district court preliminarily enjoined the law. On June 9, 2021, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's injunction, finding that the law violated Supreme Court precedent regarding elective abortions and reproductive care.

On July 13, 2021, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals granted rehearing by the full court and asked the parties to resubmit their previously filed briefs, thus vacating the June 9 opinion.

AMA Involvement

The AMA, along with ACOG, filed an *amicus* brief in the Eighth Circuit to support the plaintiffs.

Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Brief