



# **FAMILY ISSUE FACT SHEET**

**No. 2012-17 (January 2012)**

## **SB 1009 – PREFERENCE FOR CHILDBIRTH; ALLOWABLE PRESENTATIONS**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

States have the right to favor childbirth over abortion in determining public policy and enacting legislation. This function is even more important when it concerns how the youth of Arizona are educated. In keeping with this right, SB 1009 prohibits any school district or charter school from endorsing, funding, or allowing a school program or presentation during instructional time that does not present childbirth and adoption as a preferred option over abortion.

### **BACKGROUND**

Arizona has a longstanding public policy against providing taxpayer money or benefits for abortion. The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of states to “make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and to implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.”<sup>1</sup> Moreover, this policy also respects the rights of taxpayers to not be forced to subsidize an activity that they find to be morally repugnant.

This includes the right of taxpayers to not have their tax dollars funding public school programs and presentations given by entities that recommend or promote abortions.

Because Arizona has a strong interest in promoting childbirth over abortion and because Arizona has an equally strong interest in how students in public schools are educated, SB 1009 clarifies that no school district or charter school may endorse or provide funding or instructional program support to a program that does not present childbirth and adoption as preferred options to abortion. Furthermore, it completely prohibits any presentation in a school district or charter school that does not give preference, encouragement, and support to childbirth and adoption as preferred options to elective abortion.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- **Arizona has a longstanding public policy to prefer life to abortion.** The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the right of states to support child-birth and adoption over abortion.
- **Publically funded schools should be free from the abortion industry’s propaganda.** Taxpayer dollars should not subsidize materials that promote or recommend abortion.

## **CONCLUSION**

Keeping abortion providers and those that promote abortion out of public schools is in Arizona's interest and in line with Arizona's longstanding public policy of favoring childbirth over abortion. SB 1009 makes it clear that no school district or charter school may allow or fund a program or presentation that does not present childbirth and adoption as preferred options over abortion.

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<sup>1</sup> Maher v. Roe, 432 U.S. 464, 474 (1977).