

Donley, Zac

From: Kansas City Star <news@newsletter.kansascity.com>
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Star Politics



Josh Hawley sat in the Supreme Court chamber on Tuesday, [quietly supporting](#) Erin Hawley, his wife, as she argued that the Supreme Court should uphold restrictions on a commonly used abortion medication – mifepristone.

Hawley sat on a bench about six rows back from the government's attorneys with his two sons – one on each side.

The case is part of [a larger effort](#) by anti-abortion activists to restrict medication abortion, which has become the most common method for abortions in the country, including in Kansas. The procedure is banned in Missouri.

The justices seemed skeptical of Erin Hawley's argument – with two of the court's conservatives indicating they may prefer a narrow ruling that doesn't impose nationwide restrictions on mifepristone.

Hawley and sons left the courtroom immediately after Erin Hawley was done making her case and didn't stick around to hear Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar's redirect for the judges.

NEW AD

Democrat Lucas Kunce is out with a new ad hitting Hawley over access to in vitro fertilization, a fertilization procedure that helps women get pregnant.

After an Alabama Supreme Court Justice ruled that fertilized embryo, Kunce's campaign has argued that Hawley made legal arguments that laid the groundwork for Alabama's court ruling, citing an article [by The Guardian](#).

Talking to reporters at the Capitol after the Alabama ruling, Hawley said he was "100% pro-IVF" and drew a line between abortion and the fertilization procedure.

"I think there's a big difference between ending a life, a viable pregnancy in the womb, and IVF," Hawley said. "I think those are two different things."

He did not support an effort by Sen. Tammy Duckworth to get IVF protections into federal law, telling CNN he believed the bill was about abortion. It [was blocked](#) by Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, a Mississippi Republican, who said it should be left to the states.

Hawley says he opposes abortion except in cases of rape or incest, a slightly less restrictive position than the state's ban. He's signed on to a federal 15-week abortion ban.

But ahead of the election his refrain has been pretty clear – he believes the issue should be decided by the voters in each state. He's embraced a potential vote on a constitutional amendment to override the state's ban, saying the voters will decide.

ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER

Former Sen. Pat Roberts had some stern words for the Republican House Freedom caucus at a press conference urging the passage of the Farm Bill. Roberts, who was invited to speak by Rep.

Sharice Davids, said “ideologues” in the House were preventing Congress from doing its business, like reauthorizing the Farm Bill to give farmers some stability.

“If you’re an ideologue, they’re right, you’re wrong, and no amount of talking or reasonable conversation or whatever is going to bring them to the table,” Roberts said. “That’s what we’re faced with. Quite frankly, the Republican Party in the House of Representatives is in danger of losing their majority, due to this kind of performance or non-performance. And they’re not doing their constituents any favors.

Roberts commended Davids for listening to farmers and urged bipartisan passage of the farm bill, which may be unlikely to happen before the end of the year.

HAPPY FRIDAY

Baseball’s back! Read Sam McDowell’s [column on](#) how Bobby Witt Jr. got his groove. I once learned to play Hot Cross Buns on the recorder, but I’m still no good [at baking them](#). Here’s [Maria Callas](#).

[Bear down](#), go Cats (unless they lost last night).

Enjoy your weekend.



Daniel Desrochers
Washington Correspondent



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