



Michigan's VOICE

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The Newsletter of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan

We have some good news to report in our defense of reproductive rights in Michigan!

Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies and Agenda for Women Introduced

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm on July 6 unveiled her Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies, which includes support for three of our five legislative priorities for 2005: increased funding for pregnancy prevention/family planning, passage of contraceptive equity legislation, and passage of comprehensive, medically accurate sex education.

Granholm said she supports passing contraceptive equity legislation and increased access to family planning services for low income women. She also introduced a new "Talk Early & Talk Often" program to give parents of middle school students the tools they need to talk to their children about the important issue of sexuality.

The Blueprint was reinforced in Granholm's Women's Equality Day agenda for women. Planned Parenthood supports her additional goals to establish a Task Force on Cervical Cancer to raise public awareness about cervical cancer and HPV. The task force will work to identify new opportunities to eliminate this preventable disease and insure that all health plans in Michigan offer coverage for all necessary, preventive and diagnostic screenings, breast and cervical exams, and health and wellness education.

Family Planning Budget Protected

Governor Granholm on September 30 signed House Bill 4831 into law. Public Act 154 of 2005 contained the appropriations for the fiscal year 2005-2006 Department of Community Health (DCH) budget, which includes family planning and pregnancy prevention funding. The massive funding cuts passed by the House were restored in the final budget. Family planning funding remains level funded at \$12,270,300 for family planning local agreements and \$5,846,100 for pregnancy prevention programs. In addition, the harmful boilerplate language adopted in the original House budget has been removed. Planned Parenthood supported the final version of the bill.

We would like to publicly thank Michigan's legislature and Governor Granholm for recognizing the importance of prevention-based health care.

In a grassroots effort to save family planning funding, Planned Parenthood Action Network members sent over 2,500 letters to their legislators stressing the importance of family planning funding and asking that the House's budget restrictions be removed. Nearly 1,200 phone calls were made in the final week of budget negotiations to members of the DCH Appropriations subcommittee and leadership in both chambers. Over a thousand activists signed our Rights, Responsibility and Respect petition, which were hand-delivered to Senators on the day of the conference vote. Those signatures continue to come in daily, and will be delivered to the House in support of contraceptive equity, or "fairness at the pharmacy" legislation at an appropriate time.

Family planning and pregnancy prevention funding enables

responsible decision-making and creates healthy families, in addition to saving taxpayer funds by preventing unintended pregnancies. The best way to prevent unintended pregnancies and make abortion rare is to make sure that women, couples and teens have information about and access to birth control, which is ensured through family planning services. We appreciate the actions our supporters took to provide family planning to all who need it! Your letters and calls are what make change in the legislature.

Victories in Michigan's Budget and in Court!

Victory in the Courts

U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood issued a September 12 decision striking down Michigan's most recent abortion ban, saying it "creates a ban on actions at the heart of abortion procedures from the earliest stages of pregnancy, whether used to

perform induced abortions or to treat pregnancy loss."

The court also found that the act, which passed last year through a citizen-initiated referendum, endangers women because it fails to contain language protecting the health of the pregnant woman, contains a life exception which is constitutionally inadequate and includes language which is unconstitutionally vague.

On March 1, 2005, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America filed a challenge to the ban in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan on behalf of reproductive health facilities, obstetrician/gynecologists and their patients. Governor Granholm had previously vetoed this dangerous bill, which could outlaw abortions in all stages of pregnancy and contains no health exception for women's mental health and a weak exception for physical health. On March 11, the state agreed to block enforcement of the ban until the court considered the legal challenge against the law, which is now permanently enjoined.

Planned Parenthood Mid-Michigan Alliance and Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan were among the plaintiffs in the case.

Fairness at the Pharmacy Gains Support

Representative Steve Bieda (D-Warren) introduced House Bill 5175, a contraceptive equity bill that joins Senate Bills 431 and 432, which were introduced by Senator Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) and Martha Scott (D-Highland Park). Planned Parenthood is also pleased to see the Governor publicly support contraceptive equity through the priorities in her women's agenda. The legislation, if passed, would require insurers who provide prescription drug coverage to include all U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved contraceptives in that coverage.

Contraception is basic health care, used by 85% of women at some point in their lifetimes. Contraceptive equity provides women with critical access to birth control they might not otherwise be able to afford in order to prevent unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion. Planned Parenthood will continue, with your help, to "fight forward" to get this legislation passed. This is an issue of basic fairness and equity.

Sarah Scranton
Executive Director

PPAM's Board of Directors

The following people currently serve on the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan Board and as officers:

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Join the Planned Parenthood
Action Network

Organizing Efforts in Michigan Continue

Activists and Planned Parenthood staff in Michigan have been hard at work on several issues, including protecting Roe v. Wade and the right to privacy in the Supreme Court, moving "fairness at the pharmacy" legislation forward, and training activists how to handle tough choice-related issues.

We are happy to welcome Katey Aquilina to our organizing team. Katey joined us in September after previous organizer Charles Cook returned to his home in the nation's capital. Katey joins us with a wealth of experience in youth and campus organizing.



Community Organizer Katey Aquilina

"I am very excited to be helping my home area of Metro Detroit to become more active in the choice community," Katey tells us. She continues, "It's so important that we work to educate people in Michigan's most populated region about the threat to reproductive rights."

Supreme Court: On September 14, Karen Pearl, Interim President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, announced Planned Parenthood's opposition to the nomination of Judge John Roberts. The following day, Pearl testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee to urge the Senate to oppose the nomination of John Roberts to become Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Here in Michigan, activists worked hard to ensure Roberts was thoroughly questioned about his views on privacy rights and, after September 14, to oppose his nomination. We were able to generate over 12,000 calls to Planned Parenthood Action Network members in Ohio, Delaware and Wisconsin, where key Senate Judiciary members reside. Two thousand postcards were handwritten by Michigan activists to their counterparts in Pennsylvania. An additional 9,500 postcards were sent to supporters in Delaware asking recipients to contact their Senator to ensure we know where Roberts stands on privacy rights.

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan sponsored a bus of activists to gather petitions and participate in a mini-march and "Burma Shave" style protest in Pittsburgh. Jennifer Farrington, Public Affairs Associate at Planned Parenthood of East Central Michigan (PPECM), sent us the following report about the trip.

"Nineteen Michigan activists traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to assist the Western Pennsylvania affiliate with on-the-ground support around the confirmation hearings of Judge John Roberts. Public affairs staff Jennifer Farrington from PPECM and Adrienne Brune of Planned Parenthood Northern Michigan led the volunteers on the trip.

"They had an eventful two and a half hours, gathering approximately 800 signatures; in the process Jennifer met Representative

Frankle, who signed her petition. A mini-march/Burma Shave was organized at a busy street corner a few blocks away from the Meeting House. They garnered much support in this neighborhood with chants such as 'Roberts, we want to know, will you save Roe,' and many others.

"Volunteers were so inspired that they stated an interest in continuing such activism in their own communities," she concluded.

A huge thank you to those who were able to devote a weekend to protecting privacy rights and women's health! While we were disappointed in Senator Levin's vote to confirm Roberts, we were proud of Senator Stabenow's courageous opposition to the confirmation.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America also has announced opposition to Judge Samuel Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court because of his long judicial record of hostility toward women's rights, privacy rights, and civil rights. Alito's confirmation could radically transform the Supreme Court and create a direct threat to the health and safety of American women.

Planned Parenthood will do everything in our power to ensure that the American people know what is at stake, and we will fight to protect rights that are central to all Americans. Here in Michigan, we will be organizing visibility events on January 9, 2006, the day the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the confirmation process begin. In the coming months, Planned Parenthood will call on our supporters to join our efforts to defeat this extreme nominee.

If you would like more information on ways to get involved in these and other Planned Parenthood grassroots organizing activities, please contact Christina at christina.kuo@ppfa.org or Katey at katey.aquilina@ppfa.org.

Civil Rights: The "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative," a deceptively named ballot proposal, will be on the ballot in 2006. If this proposal passes, all state and local affirmative action programs will be eliminated, including opportunities for equal access to education, jobs and contracts for women and people of color,

with immediate effect.

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan's Board of Directors in September voted to join the efforts of Michigan United, a statewide coalition formed to educate the public about affirmative action and outreach policies. Of particular concern to Planned Parenthood is the potential loss of gender-specific health screenings. We will keep our supporters up-to-date throughout the coming year with details about the potential negative impact of this initiative.

Contraceptive Equity: Efforts to get a Senate committee hearing on bills to require equal insurance coverage for prescription birth control have been moving forward. Planned Parenthood staff have been working with labor representatives to develop a strategy to overcome union and business opposition to "fairness at the pharmacy" legislation.

Ongoing days of action in support of contraceptive equity have already been held and will continue until the legislation moves. Volunteers and staff have canvassed and held literature drops in key Senate districts to educate people about the benefits of increased access to contraceptives. To join the effort, contact Christina at christina.kuo@ppfa.org or Katey at katey.aquilina@ppfa.org.

Other Activities: Planned Parenthood staff and volunteers made phone calls into California to support the Campaign for Teen Safety. This campaign is opposing Proposition 73, a parental consent measure which would put vulnerable teenagers in harm's way. The response was positive, and we were pleased to see the proposal fail at the polls.

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan paired up with Planned Parenthood Mid-Michigan Alliance to hold training sessions about becoming a Super Activist for Choice. These workshops continue, and upcoming trainings may be found on the events portion of our web site at www.miplannedparenthood.org.

Six Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood chapters from across the state met in Lansing on November 5th and 6th to get back to the basics of campus organizing. They learned how to strategically plan, develop leadership in their organizations, and talk about choice, along with many other skills. The students found it especially useful to learn what their peers on other college campuses were doing. ☐



Above and right: Michigan activists travel to Pittsburgh to protect Roe v. Wade

Volunteer Spotlight

Planned Parenthood is launching a new feature on our web site and in our newsletters. Each month, we will ask a volunteer to share why she or he devotes time and energy to join Planned Parenthood in our efforts.

"I volunteer at Planned Parenthood for many different reasons. The main reason I volunteer for Planned Parenthood is because I believe in what they do, and what they have done, with regards to family planning as well as what they have worked to achieve in representing the needs and rights of women everywhere. They have made health care accessible for women of all ages, races and economic standing. They have fought for women's rights to safe, legal abortion, as well as for the rights we have to legal and easy access to birth control, family planning and health care.

"Volunteering at Planned Parenthood has empowered me. As a young woman, this is a crucial time for *Roe vs. Wade* and for our rights to birth control access. Those are just two of the bigger issues, those issues represent a time for women that, because of the zealous religious and political agendas of others, has become unstable. Planned Parenthood gives me a reason to believe that I can make a difference, even in times of instability, and that is a huge thing. Planned Parenthood keeps me current on important issues concerning women.

"Volunteering allows me to give back to the community by giving my time and effort for a cause that will benefit society.

"The staff at Planned Parenthood are a huge reason I volunteer. They are warm, helpful and informative.

"The last main reason I volunteer is because Planned Parenthood holds me accountable.

"They hold me accountable because they take away all of the excuses I had for not taking an active role in my future and for the future of women everywhere. They eliminate my excuses by giving me the courage to stand up for what I believe in because I know I am not alone, the information to keep me well informed and therefore well prepared, and the resources to use what I believe and to make a difference in the world around me. I volunteer at Planned Parenthood for all of these reasons and many more. I will continue to be a part of a great team, a great environment and a great cause."

—Katie

In Memoriam: N. Lorraine Beebe



N. Lorraine Beebe

With sadness, we report that former Michigan state Senator N. Lorraine Beebe died on August 12 at age 95. Beebe was elected as a Republican in a predominantly Democratic district to represent Dearborn in Michigan's Senate in 1966 and served in the post for four years. She was only the third woman in the state's history to serve in the Senate.

Among her many accomplishments in that time: she introduced the legislation that established the Michigan Women's Commission and sponsored legislation to provide sex education in schools.

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, to which she was inducted in 1983, reports the following about Beebe:

During the abortion debate, Lorraine Beebe offered a profile in courage too rarely seen in political life. Senator Beebe announced that she had undergone a therapeutic abortion in 1948. This courageous speech shocked the Senate and marked the end of Senator Beebe's political career. Defeated for reelection in 1970, her family was threatened, her house was fire-bombed and her tires were slashed.

Ms. Beebe's service on numerous national and state commissions reflects her continuing devotion to improving the lives of all Americans; her concerns and interests range from the women's movement to mental health, from minority advancement to penal reform. She has served as a role model for a generation of Michigan women. She helped spark the women's movement in Michigan with her abortion speech in the Senate and she continues to challenge the conscience of the community to this day.

In a speech to the otherwise all-male Senate, Beebe said, "You are trying to impose your will on a woman's decision. You cannot do this," adding, "What we are talking about is the difference of life and death to women who resent being pawns and third-class citizens."

Judy Karandjeff, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan Board Member, said, "We can all thank former Senator Beebe for being so courageous to discuss her own health care when she was in office and faced the repercussions! How many of us are willing to follow her example?"

Senator Sikkema on August 31 offered Senate Resolution No. 52 in Beebe's honor. Among the text of the resolution: "Whereas, With the passing of Lorraine Beebe, Michigan and the cause of women's rights have lost a genuine pioneer and a leader who touched many lives." The resolution continues, "As a lawmaker, Lorraine Beebe fought for women's rights, reform in women's prisons, sex education, and tougher drunk driving legislation. In many ways, she was a person ahead of her time. Literally a lone voice as the only woman in the Senate at the time, Lorraine Beebe had a significant impact on subsequent generations of women seeking to build a stronger state."

The resolution was adopted by a unanimous standing vote of the Senate. The entire membership of the Senate and the Lieutenant Governor were named as cosponsors of the resolution.

Michigan has lost a truly great pioneer for women. Our condolences go out to Ms. Beebe's loved ones. ☐

Planned Parenthood Supports Women Who Run!

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan joined a dozen women's groups as a sustaining sponsor of *Run, Girl, Run!*, a series of nonpartisan workshops designed to inspire and support women to prepare for public office in an informal and supportive setting.

The goal of the workshops is to counter the declining number of women serving in public office in Michigan by providing women the tools needed to get ready to run a campaign and serve in public office.

For details about the upcoming workshop on January 20 and 21, 2006, at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, email ppam@ppfa.org or call 517-482-1080 X2.





It's Outrageous!

Representative Stahl and 37 cosponsors on October 18 introduced a new bill that would prevent emergency contraception from receiving over-the-counter status in Michigan even if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) grants the status in the coming year. House Bill 5311, which prohibits nonprescription dispensing of the "morning after" pill, would supercede federal guidelines. HB 5311 was referred to the Michigan House Committee on Health Policy. Planned Parenthood opposes this bill.

While anti-choice hardliners publicly claim to want to work together to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, instead we see bills like this one, which do nothing to improve access to prevention services. It's outrageous!

Emergency contraception is FDA-approved for being safe and effective. Emergency contraception is the best way to prevent unintended pregnancy in cases of rape, incest, or contraceptive failure. Emergency contraception provides one of our best tools to reduce the need for abortion.

Bill Description: House Bill 5311 amends the Public Health Code to require that emergency contraception shall only be dispensed as a prescription drug under the control of a licensed pharmacist or prescriber. The licensed pharmacist or prescriber who dispenses the emergency contraception shall maintain the same records for the dispensing of the emergency contraception as required for the dispensing of prescription drugs. Emergency contraception means a medication or combination of medications approved by the FDA taken or used after sexual intercourse for the prevention of pregnancy by preventing ovulation, fertilization of an egg, or implantation of an egg in a uterus.

Action To Be Taken: Please contact your Representative and urge him or her to oppose this bill and instead support timely access to and information about emergency contraception.

Members of the House may be written at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514, or send a letter from our online action center at www.miplannedparenthood.org.

Short on time but want to make a difference?

Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan stands up for the right of individuals to make their own reproductive health care decisions without interference from the government. We ask you to join us in the fight for women's health and reproductive freedom.

If you are not already a member of the Planned Parenthood Action Network, please sign up to receive regular email alerts. Not only will you be kept up-to-date about pending issues, you will receive instructions for a quick, easy way to take action.

To join, visit www.miplannedparenthood.org and click on "Michigan Action Center."

Together, we can make a difference!



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Celebrate the 2nd Anniversary
of the March for Women's Lives!
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- Sarah Scranton
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- Macie Schriener
Communications Director
- Christina Kuo
Grassroots Organizer
- Katey Aquilina
Grassroots Organizer

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Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan,
PO Box 19104, Lansing, MI 48901-9104.
Web site: www.miplannedparenthood.org

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Affiliates of Michigan
PO Box 19104
Lansing, MI 48901-9104