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## 2012 Summit for YOPI (Youth Organizing and Policy Institute)

August 24 to 26, **Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan**, in partnership with **Planned Parenthood Federation of America**, hosted the **Midwest 2012 Youth Organizing and Policy Summit**. Eighty-three student activists aged 18 to 24, traveling from nine states, and representing 22 schools, all joined together at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Over three long and intense days, attendees learned the foundational skills needed to make real, lasting change

on campuses and in their communities through learning how to tell the story of their communities, the components of building an effective campaign, choosing a strategic goal and effective tactics, and much more. Young people, representing the largest, most diverse generation in the nation, have the incredible opportunity to define what type of change they want to see and the power to make it real by ensuring that their voices are heard.

During the first dinner of the conference, the attendees were surprised when they were joined by **Michigan State Representative Lisa Brown**—who was banned from speaking on the House floor after saying “vagina” when referring to

a bill that restricts access to women’s reproductive health care—and **actress Elizabeth Reaser**. Both strong advocates for women’s health spoke about the importance of continuing to make our voices heard and commended the attendees for the amazing work they do in their communities every day.

In addition to building strong bonds with activists throughout the Midwest, attendees left equipped with the expertise necessary to speak up on behalf of their communities and be advocates for justice. While continuing to protect rights when they are compromised, regaining rights that have been stripped away, and working to win vital reproductive rights, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan is helping to build a generation of leaders across the nation who will act in a bold way by standing up for themselves and their communities. ■



YOPI Summit prepares community leaders

# MICHIGAN'S CHOICE

The Newsletter of Planned Parenthood  
Advocates of Michigan



PO Box 15041, Lansing, MI 48901 | 517.482.1080 phone | ppam@ppmchoice.org | www.MiPlannedParenthood.org

## Election 2012: It's Time to End the War on Women

If there is one thing the 2010 elections proved, it is that elections do matter! Michigan now has the most anti-choice representation since Roe, and our elected officials have used it to launch a war on women. They have attacked women’s rights, our reproductive health care choices, and silenced our voices. **Election Day is almost here, and this is our opportunity to speak with the most important voice we have—OUR VOTE!**

Over the past two years, anti-choice politicians have shown their true colors. Not only do they seek to restrict access to reproductive health care, they want to silence women who speak out and stand up for our values. Across the country, those who value equal rights have been infuriated to watch Michigan women legislators reprimanded for saying “vagina” and told they were having a “temper tantrum” and needed a “time out.” Never in our state’s history has women’s reproductive health seen such a dangerous attack. We could not be more thankful for the outpouring of support for Planned Parenthood and women’s health.

Yet, it is more important we stand together in November than at any other time. We have to make sure legislators know that women are watching. **We will not sit back quietly while they roll back 40 years of progress.** Thousands have rallied at the capitol, and

tens of thousands have contacted their legislators, but it will take hundreds of thousands to vote them out of office.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan has a plan to do just that! With November 6 right around the corner, Planned Parenthood community organizers, volunteers, and student partners are in the field, knocking on doors, canvassing neighborhoods, and calling supporters. We will communicate with over 100,000 pro-choice voters across the state to defeat those who tried to silence us. We will elect pro-choice champions who will stand up for women, their right to choose, and access to quality reproductive health care.

**We are engaged in a massive voter education Pledge-to-Vote and Get-Out-The-Vote campaign** to make sure that our supporters know the issues and understand how important their vote is on Election Day. Pledge-to-Vote action centers are in full force in 25 of our health centers and eight college campuses statewide.

The outcome of this year’s election will have a huge impact on our ability to promote commonsense prevention policies and continue to serve the millions of women, men, and teens who rely on Planned Parenthood for needed

services and information. We must turn the tide and establish a pro-women’s-health majority in the legislature!

In these last crucial days before the election, we will talk to the voters who need to hear from us in order to make an informed decision—a pro-choice decision—on November 6. ■

*We must turn the tide and establish a pro-women’s-health majority in the legislature!*



“Pillamina” with Rep. Lisa Brown

# Don't forget to vote on November 6

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012, you will have the opportunity to change the face of politics in your community, the state, and our nation with your pro-choice vote. The following list provides you with our endorsements based on candidates' positions on family planning, sexuality education, and access to safe, legal abortion.

PRESIDENT		US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES			MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT	
Barack Obama	D	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>	Sheila Johnson	
		Dan Kildee	5	D	Connie Marie Kelley	
<b>US SENATE</b>		Sandy Levin	9	D	Bridget Mary McCormack	
Debbie Stabenow	D	John Dingell	12	D		
		John Conyers	13	D		
		Gary Peters	14	D		

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES					
<i>Candidate</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Party</i>
Alberta Tinsley-Talabi	2	D	Chuck Tindall*	38	D
John Olumba	3	D	Pam Jackson	39	D
Rose Mary Robinson	4	D	Dorian Coston	40	D
Fred Durhal	5	D	Mary Kerwin	41	D
Rashida Tlaib	6	D	Shanda Willis*	42	D
Thomas Stallworth	7	D	Neil Billington*	43	D
David Nathan	8	D	Tom Crawford*	44	D
Harvey Santana	9	D	Joanna VanRaaphorst*	45	D
Phil Cavanagh	10	D	Daniel Sargent*	46	D
David Knezek	11	D	Pam Faris	48	D
Andrew Kandrevas	13	D	Jim Ananich	49	D
Sarah Roberts	18	D	Charles Smiley	50	D
Richard Tannous*	19	D	Gretchen Driskell*	52	D
Tim Roraback*	20	D	Jeff Irwin	53	D
Dian Slavens	21	D	David Rutledge	54	D
Harold Haugh	22	D	Adam Zemke	55	D
Henry Yanez	25	D	Jim Berryman*	57	D
Jim Townsend	26	D	Amaryllis Thomas*	58	D
Ellen Cogen-Lipton	27	D	Mike Moroz*	59	D
Jon Switalski	28	D	Sean McCann	60	D
Tim Greimel	29	D	Michael Martin*	61	D
Sheri Smith*	32	D	Kate Segal	62	D
Martha O'Kray*	33	D	Bill Farmer*	63	D
Woodrow Stanley	34	D	Barbara Shelton*	64	D
Rudy Hobbs	35	D	Bonnie Johnson*	65	D
Vicki Barnett	37	D	Richard Rajkovich*	66	D

INGHAM COUNTY		
Sheriff	Gene Wrigglesworth	D
Clerk	Barb Byrum	D
Register of Deeds	Curtis Hertel	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 2	Rebecca Bahar-Cook	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 4	Debbie DeLeon	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 5	Todd Tennis	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 7	Kara Hope	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 10	Brian McGrain	D
KALAMAZOO COUNTY		
Clerk	Brian Johnson	D
Prosecuting Attorney	Jeffrey Getting	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 5	Julie Rogers	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 6	Tom Novak	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 7	Leroy Crabtree	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 9	Robert Kildea	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 11	Jamie Jager	D

OAKLAND COUNTY		
County Executive	Kevin Howley	D
Sheriff	Jane Bourdreau	D
Clerk	Lisa Brown	D
Treasurer	Andy Meisner	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 1	Jeff Vaught	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 7	Paul Caradonna	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 9	Gwen Markham	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 10	Andy Pettress	R
Co. Comm. Dist. 13	Marcia Gershenson	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 14	Todd Stearn	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 16	Tim Burns	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 18	Helaine Zack	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 19	Dave Woodward	D

KENT COUNTY		
Clerk	Richard Carrillo	D
Treasurer	Teresa Walker	D
Sheriff	James Farris	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 3	James Black	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 19	Lance Penny	D
WASHTENAW COUNTY		
Clerk	Larry Kastenbaum	D
Sheriff	Jerry Clayton	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 7	Andy LaBarre	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 8	Yousef Rabhi	D
Co. Comm. Dist. 9	Conan Smith	D
WAYNE COUNTY		
Co. Comm. Dist. 2	Jewel Ware	D

**Bold** Incumbent candidate  
*Italics* Open seat  
 \* Seat currently anti-choice

To find your district, check your voter registration card or call your county clerk.  
 To find your polling location and see a copy of your ballot, go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

# Telling Michigan Politicians: Hands Off Women's Health Care!

This year Michigan politicians fledged a full-out assault on women's health. **Never in our state's history has women's reproductive health seen such dangerous attacks.** Day after day, proponents of women's health were ignored, disregarded, or forcibly silenced.

Despite the attacks, our supporters didn't back down! Advocates from across the state showed up to protest the most sweeping overhaul of women's health regulations across the country, and we made sure our legislators knew that women are watching. On September 20, supporters gathered on the Michigan Capitol Lawn for the eighth time since June, and 350 women's health activists joined supportive legislators for a flash mob dance! The rally was the culmination of two weeks of action organized in partnership with the Michigan ACLU to remind Michigan politicians that we are still watching and we will be voting in November.

The assault began in the House Health Policy Committee when **no women were allowed to speak against House Bills 5711, 5712, and 5713** that would virtually eliminate access to safe and legal abortion in the state of Michigan. Nearly 100 women from across the state came to the capitol to testify against these bills, but **none were given the opportunity to voice their objections**, including the CEOs of Planned Parenthood and other women's health experts.

However, the affront to democracy demonstrated in committee only served as a catalyst for action. As the House rushed the bills through with little debate, activists from around the state continuously gathered at the capitol to make their voices heard. Decked out in pink, we filled the capitol rotunda and made it known to politicians that women are paying attention and there will be consequences if they vote against hard-won reproductive rights.

Thursday, June 14, will go down in history as the day anti-choice politicians wish they could take back. Once again, several hundred Planned Parenthood



Flash mob dance at the Capitol

supporters came to the capitol in protest against the passage of the bill. That is when we found out that **Representatives Lisa Brown and Barb Byrum were banned from speaking on the House floor!** From that moment, Michigan's war on women became a front-page story.

Women have the right to make their voices heard, and on Monday, June 18, they did just that. **Eve Ensler, the Tony-award-winning writer of *The Vagina Monologues*, flew to Michigan to per-**

form her hit play with female pro-choice legislators on the steps of the Michigan State Capitol Building. Over 3,500 women, men, and children came to Lansing in support of women's health.

This November, women will decide the fate of this election. Together, we will show these legislators that women are watching and we will vote against those who attacked our rights. **On November 6, women will stand together and use our vote to end the war on women. ■**



(L to R) Rep. Barb Byrum; Rep. Kate Segal; Stephanie Kotsiris, President of MSU Medical Students for Choice; Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright; Rep. Jeff Irwin; Kylee Sunderlin of Law Students for Reproductive Justice; and Rep. Lisa Brown lead the "Hands Off" flash mob dance.



Hundreds of activists stand with Planned Parenthood and give Michigan politicians the loud-and-clear message: Hands Off Women's Health Care!