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MICHIGAN'S CHOICE

The Newsletter of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan



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My Health. My Life. No Matter What.

At Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, we are working to create a world where access to healthcare doesn't depend on who you are, where you work, or where you live—where every woman has the opportunity to choose her own path to a healthy and meaningful life. In recent years, politicians in Lansing

have waged an unprecedented assault on women's access to reproductive healthcare.

We are fighting back! Together we can expand access to women's healthcare and education. We know that these basic rights are the foundation of freedom and opportunity for women and their families.

Through our **My Health. My Life.** campaign, we will engage with supporters, allies, and policymakers to guarantee the right of every woman to make her own medical decisions without interference from anyone.

No matter what. ■

Get Involved Today!



Members of the Michigan Legislature wearing their #Pink4PP.
Photo: Progressive Women's Caucus Facebook page

Pink for PP Wednesdays

Show your support for PPAM by wearing pink on Wednesdays! Take a picture and share it on social media. Be sure to tag us on Twitter and Instagram @mippadvocates using #Pink4PP.

Activist Nights

Join us for events in Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Oakland County. Email volunteer@ppmchoice.org for more information.

My Health. My Life. pledges these 6 values

- 1 We all have the right to plan when and if to have a child.**

The right and ability to plan when and if to have a child is essential to our health and economic well-being. State efforts to expand access to birth control are crucial to being able to plan pregnancies and determine our own futures.
- 2 Doctors help decide our medical care—not politics or religious restrictions.**

Medical professionals must be able to provide medically accurate information and quality affordable medical care based on the latest medical research and their training and expertise—not on political agendas or religious restrictions.
- 3 Our rights shouldn't depend on who we are, where we work, or where we live.**

We all should be able to access affordable, comprehensive reproductive healthcare—regardless of race, language spoken, gender identity, sexual orientation, employer, where we live, or where we come from.
- 4 We all deserve access to sex education.**

We all deserve access to sex education programs that gives us the reliable, accurate information we need to make responsible decisions and stay healthy.
- 5 We will not stand for coercion, harassment, or intimidation.**

We all must be able to access abortion and other confidential reproductive healthcare services without coercion, intimidation, or harassment.
- 6 Victims of sexual violence deserve care without delay, judgment, or intimidation.**

If we experience sexual violence, we should have access to compassionate healthcare without delay, judgment, or government interference.

Visit MiPlannedParenthood.org to take the pledge, take action, and learn more!

Fighting for Our Values

On Tuesday, February 10, PPAM held our annual Legislative Breakfast. Using a new format, we held a brief program for those in attendance. PPAM Board President Lori Carpentier presented on the medical and health finance aspects of Planned Parenthood with VP Libby McGaughey and Directors Amanda West and John Keserich taking the lead presenting on efforts in the field and in Lansing.



Left to right: PPAM Board Member Daniel Rivkin, PPAM VP of Public Advocacy Libby McGaughey, Senator Gary Peters, PPAM President Lori Carpentier, PPAM Board Chair Kathy Humphrey, PPAM Director of Government Relations Amanda West.

On Tuesday, March 17, Lori Carpentier, along with new Board Member Daniel Rivkin, Libby, Amanda, and Board Chair Kathy Humphrey, participated in Lobby Day on Capitol Hill. We had successful meetings with Senator Stabenow, Senator Peters, and Congressman Kildee and met with staff from the office of Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence. We also made stops in the offices of Congresswoman Dingell and Congressman Levin. At these meetings,

we lobbied for the expansion of federal family planning dollars in Title X and against the inclusion of the extended Hyde Amendment in various pieces of legislation, including the bipartisan Human Trafficking bill that was up at the time.

In addition to working with legislators and providing leadership, infor-

mation, and testimony on a variety of bills, Director of Government Relations Amanda West has begun sending a biweekly "Legislator Communicator" to keep our friends in the legislature up to date on our efforts. This includes bills we are watching, messaging, and items for their calendars. ■

Genocide Awareness Project Comes to Michigan Campuses

On March 30 and 31, the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) returned to Oakland University's campus for the second year in a row. In order to help students, faculty, and staff who may have been offended by the displays of GAP, two student organizations, Voices for Choices and the Wide Range of Normal, partnered together to provide a resource table and a peaceful counter-protest on both days. Students and community members stood together in unity holding signs that expressed support of women. Two student leaders from those organizations went on Tony Trupiano's Voice of the People radio show the Friday before the counter-protest to explain why it was important for them to have a presence while GAP was there.

In response to the protests on GVSU's campus and the presence of the Genocide Awareness Project, a panel discussion took place on Thursday afternoon, April 2, at GVSU. The goal of this event was to foster and facilitate a productive discussion amongst GVSU students on the events that took place on campus over the previous two days. The panel included Dani Vilella from Planned Parenthood; Kathleen Underwood, the chair of the Women and Gender Studies Department at GVSU; Sara Campbell, the president of GVSU Voices for Healthy Choices; and Kortney Ondayko, a GVSU sophomore majoring in WGS and who is also involved with several groups on campus. The discussion

was moderated by Jenny Kinne from Planned Parenthood.

All of the students who came to event were also present at the protest or came up and engaged with us during the protest. We had some amazing conversations about GAP's demonstrations, genocide, and abortion. A lot of things were said that made us all go, "WOW, I have never thought of it that way," which was awesome. A lot of those who came to the meeting were very interested in volunteering with Planned Parenthood. After two long days of standing for truth on campus, the panel discussion helped students better understand the meanings of abortion, genocide, and the term "pro-choice." ■



Volunteer Spotlight: A Voice Against Violence

Marie Rose has been working with Planned Parenthood since high school when she was a Peer Educator with the Project TRUST program in Battle Creek. Marie continued her involvement into college, where she was a Global Advocacy Fellow with

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, an intern with PPAM, and the president of Students for Choice at Michigan State University, from where she will graduate in May.

Marie is also involved in the greater Lansing community and has served

as co-director of V-Day Lansing's production of *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer* for the past two years. As part of a passionate team of East Lansing and Lansing residents, V-Day Lansing was created in the fall of 2013 with hopes to spark conversation in the Lansing community regarding domestic and sexual violence, in addition to creating a movement of support and solidarity for victims, survivors, and all who are effected by violence. This production is collection of monologues edited by Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle. In a series of diverse voices, the collection aims to expose the insidiousness of all violence.

We thank Marie for her dedication to her community and to Planned Parenthood, and we congratulate her on an incredible production. ■



From left to right: Shannon Nobles, Bee Queener, Brian Smith, and Marie Rose. Photo: Dan Hartley Photography

Path to Power

PPAM staff will be attending the Path to Power University in May. Path to Power is a part of the Public Affairs and Organizing Model Initiative with Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). It was designed and co-created by PPFA and Affiliates and aims to increase the capacity of public affairs staff across the Federation in order to build our power for the long term. The staff attending from PPAM will learn organizing skills, including relationship building, using stories in our work, team building, volunteer management, power mapping, goal setting, and campaign strategy. This new model will help us build scalable and measurable programs and help develop broader support across the country. We are so excited for this opportunity to train our staff on this new model. ■