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MICHIGAN'S CHOICE

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Advocates of Michigan



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A Summer of Celebrity Support

This summer, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan (PPAM) has received an outpouring of support from entertainers. We would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to **Lizz Winstead**, **Stephanie Miller**, and **Tony Trupiano**.

Lizz Winstead, co-creator of *The Daily Show*, kicked off her multi-state comedy tour with a benefit for PPAM in Pontiac on July 9; the tour ran through late September.

On August 20, **Stephanie Miller's Sexy Liberal Tour** came to the Detroit Opera House, with proceeds going to PPAM. Comedians included **Stephanie Miller**, **John Fugelsang**, and

Planned Parenthood Board Member **Aisha Tyler**. After the event, **The First Shift with Tony Trupiano**, WDTW's weekday morning talk show, hosted a VIP benefit reception.

The audience could not have asked for a better time at both events. The shows were hilarious and entertaining, causing the audience to switch between heartfelt cheers and fits of laughter.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan wishes to thank these celebrities and all of you who supported these events. **Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to the values we share. ■**



Lizz Winstead



Stephanie Miller



Tony Trupiano

Federal and State Officials Initiate Attacks on Women's Health

Washington v. Choice

After the 2010 elections, the political landscape of America changed. Legislatures across the country became full of anti-choice supporters, including the U.S. House of Representatives. As soon as legislative sessions began, women felt the impact. **In April, Planned Parenthood survived its biggest attack in our nearly 100-year history. The U.S. Senate blocked the House's attempt to defund Planned Parenthood, allowing us to continue to serve our 3 million patients nationwide; 90,000 of which are right here in Michigan.** Unfortunately, the attacks on Planned Parenthood and women's health did not end after the federal vote, rather it moved to the states.

Battles in the States

According to the Guttmacher Institute, legislators in 49 states introduced 916 bills related to reproductive issues in the first three months of 2011 alone. More than half (56%) of these initiatives are to restrict access to reproductive health care, women's

health services, and birth control—up from 38% in 2010. Indiana was the first state to defund Planned Parenthood, followed by similar legislation in North Carolina and Texas. Kansas saw the country's strictest regulation of abortion providers that nearly ended abortion services in the state, and Mississippi will have personhood on the ballot this November, which could outlaw abortion and birth control. In the cases of Indiana, North Carolina, and Kansas, federal judges have ruled against these measures but they remain a constant threat.

Michigan is no different than the other states. **Earlier this year, the legislature eliminated all state funding exclusively for pregnancy prevention efforts next year.** In addition, nearly 30 anti-choice measures have been introduced, seven have currently passed out of committee and are currently awaiting action on the floor. These bills restrict access to safe and legal medical services while doing nothing to prevent the number one cause of

abortion: unintended pregnancies. Recently, both chambers passed their version of an abortion ban that is already illegal at the federal level. These bills keep doctors from using their best medical judgment to decide what medical procedure is safest for each individual patient and sends the message that the

This session has taught us that elections have consequences.

Michigan Legislature, not doctors, know what will best protect the health of a pregnant woman.

This session has taught us that elections have consequences. Women's access to reproductive services has come under attack at a rapid rate. Moving forward, we need to ensure that individuals we elect are committed to women's health. **Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan will be there every step of the way to fight these severe assaults on women's health and support those who share our values. ■**

Michigan Legislation: Prevention First = Healthy Families

Unintended pregnancies cost tax payers \$11 billion dollars per year in the United States. **The Prevention First package offers comprehensive solutions while saving money.** For every dollar spent on family planning, Michigan saves \$6.37 the next year alone on costs related to unintended pregnancies. Preventing unintended pregnancies will reduce the need for abortion.

The Prevention First package is a commitment to the citizens of Michigan to support healthy

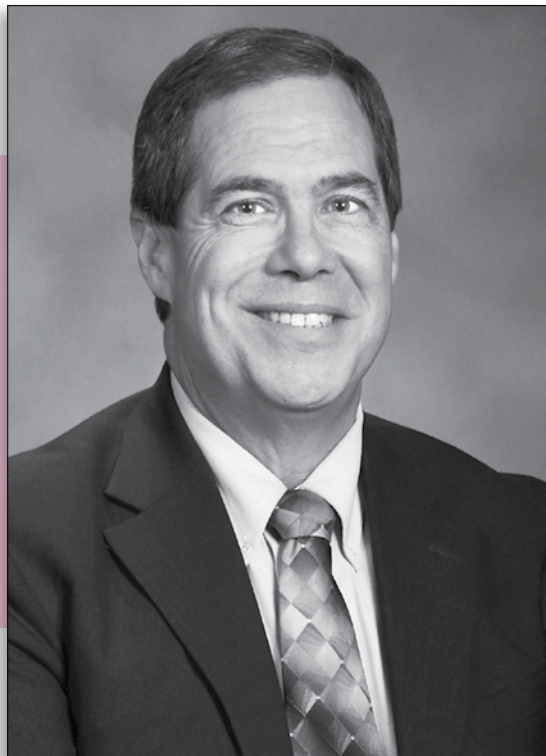
“Education is the number one way to equip people to make responsible choices.”

—Representative Charles Smiley

families through commonsense preventative measures. The 14-bill package includes legislation to require comprehensive, medically accurate, and age-appropriate sex education which will prevent teen pregnancies and enable teens to act responsibly and protect their health. **“Education is the number one way to make certain that people make responsible choices.”** said Representative Charles Smiley, a sponsor of the package. **“This package is the step we need to guarantee future genera-**

tions have access to information that will allow them to make healthy decisions.”

Another vital piece of legislation in the package requires all health facilities that provide emergency or urgent care to promptly offer emergency contraception (EC) to survivors of sexual assault. Having access to EC is the most effective way to prevent a pregnancy that is



the result of violence. Representative Smiley, the bill’s sponsor, said, **“Ensuring survivors of sexual assault have access to emergency contraception allows women to take control and protect themselves and their reproductive future.”**

Americans want prevention policies. Michigan needs to step forward now in support of women’s health. ■

WHERE IS THE SMART MONEY?

- Unintended pregnancies cost U.S. tax payers \$11 billion dollars per year.
- For every dollar spent on family planning, Michigan saves \$6.37 the next year alone on costs related to unintended pregnancies.

Making Progress

The recent decision by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to include preventative services for women is an encouraging step forward for women’s health. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll discovered that 66% of Americans support this prevention policy. Although the HHS recommendation is a significant victory for women’s health, more needs to be done.

As the legislature begins its fall session, many conservative elected officials are focused on pushing through an ideological agenda that offers no solutions to our state’s current problems. Meanwhile, Planned Parenthood and like-minded legislators are coming together to promote proactive legislation that will protect women’s health, reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortion, and help prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases while saving taxpayer dollars.

Training the Next Generation of Leaders

Fresh on the heels of the **Organizing and Policy Summit** in Washington D.C., student leaders from across the state joined together at **Michigan State University** for two days of intensive leadership training. The event, hosted by the PPAM field team, included sessions on individual leadership, the Michigan Legislature, reproductive justice, and taking action on campus and in communities. **“This is a great way for organizers and campus leaders to come together before school begins,”** said Senior Field Organizer Megan Zapinski. **“By the time classes start, we have a plan in place and our campus leaders can take action.”**

The most popular training session was **“Recruitment Rocks: The Ultimate Tabling Challenge,”** in which groups competed to have the best recruitment table and win over the judges by getting them to join their campus group.

The retreat enabled students to tackle the tough issues on their campuses. On top of the skills and knowledge they gained from the training, students interacted and created bonds with groups from other parts of the state. The students decided to collaborate on a statewide video project that is sure to be creative, informative, and enlightening.

One student commented, **“I got a lot out of the retreat and now feel more organized and prepared for this year and all the events. I can’t wait to get back to school and start working.”**

We are excited to see what our young leaders have in store for the year ahead! ■



Student leaders participate in team-building exercises and sex ed presentation training.