



Michigan goes to Washington, DC!

Planned Parenthood Federation of America offered Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan the amazing opportunity to attend the April 7 Stand with Planned Parenthood Rally and Lobby Day in Washington, DC by chartering buses for our supporters, campus groups, and young professional groups to attend. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan staff filled a 56-person bus in 24 hours and then filled a second bus within a week with help from the ACLU in Michigan.

On April 6, over 100 supporters boarded the buses captained by PPAM Staffers Megan Zapinski and Whitney Mich and made the 15-hour overnight trip across three states to Washington, DC for the big event. Once in the nation's capitol, the group joined the thirty other Planned Parenthood staff, peer educators, and board members who were attending the National Conference for a meeting with several congressional offices and star of the day, Senator Debbie Stabenow. John Keserich, Field Manager for Planned Parenthood Affiliates and Advocates of Michigan, presented Senator Stabenow with 2000 I Stand with Planned Parenthood petition postcards and thanked her for her constant support of women's health care in our fight to defend Planned Parenthood.

One of the trip's highlights was joining the thousands of Planned Parenthood supporters who, dressed in pink and armed with their signs, rallied to show our national government that Planned Parenthood protects women's health and must be funded! After 42.5 hours, seven short breaks, a two-hour traffic delay, three movies, and one emergency stop for possible engine trouble, the Planned Parenthood buses made it back to Michigan.



Many thanks to Lindsey Williams, former President of Western Michigan University VOX; Marcia LeVigne, Michigan State University Student for Choice Vice-President; Dani Vilella, Planned Parenthood of Western and Northern Michigan Public Affairs Specialist; and Sarah Clymer, Grand Rapids Planned Parenthood supporter, who helped Megan and Whitney lead the trip. Thanks also go to Kristina Ko from Senator Carl Levin's office, Congressman Conyer's Chief of Staff Cynthia Martin, and staff member Rinia Shelby, who presented to the Michigan delegation during the meeting. We couldn't have done it without you. ■



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