



2011 PPFA Youth Organizing and Policy Summit in Washington DC

July 12 through 15, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan brought the largest delegation from a single state to the **2011 Organizing and Policy Conference** and the corresponding **Youth Summit** in Washington, DC. The delegation of 33 staffers, campus leaders, and peer educators was made up of teen activists hailing from Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Milan, and campus leaders from Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Western Michigan University.



We joined with over 600 conference attendees to prepare for the tremendous challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for reproductive health. In workshops covering a wide variety of topics—from the use of social media, new technologies, effective lobbying practices, and even sex and environmental sustainability—participants discussed best practices and learned

valuable organizing skills to take back to their own states to build effective campaigns and engage their target constituencies.



On July 14, the conference attendees flooded the Capitol in a sea of pink to lobby for the healthiest generation ever. Peer educators, campus leaders, and staffers informed members of Congress on the work they do in their communities and the impact that Medicaid cuts have on women and children. Representatives from our state met with Senator Debbie Stabenow and Congressmen Peters, Amash, Upton, Kildee, Conyers, Dingell, and Walberg.

The networking opportunities, important conversations with elected officials, and valuable knowledge gained at the conference will help our young activists advocate effectively for reproductive justice and help ensure that their generation becomes the healthiest in our history! ■

SNAPSHOTS