



## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual 2012 Students for Choice Conference

On February 4, 2012, over 40 Students for Choice leaders from nine universities and representing eleven campus groups gathered in Ann Arbor on Saturday, February 4, for the 6th Annual Students for Choice Conference “Making Progress in 2012.” The students were briefed on and discussed the recent legislative attacks facing Michiganders and many women nationwide. They also had the opportunity to speak with Michigan legislators Representative Jeff Irwin and State Senator Rebekah Warren regarding the political climate in Lansing, particularly around choice issues. In response to being asked to speak on what it is like working alongside anti-choice women legislators, Senator Warren said it can be difficult to work with any anti-choice colleague, but it is particularly frustrating when working with her anti-choice female cohorts.

Students discussed the importance of the upcoming election and the number of issues in addition to women’s health that will shape the future of our youth. Participants also heard from a panel of progressive partners from around the state and participated in hands on activities to learn successful campaigning and organizing skills for the upcoming November 2012 elections.

Our campus leaders also made photo petitions to thank President Obama and U.S. Senator and Choice Champion Debbie Stabenow for standing strong for women’s health care and advocating for women’s access for birth control without co-pays.

Without the strong leadership and campus organizing skills of these student activists, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan wouldn’t be able to face the tough legislative battles happening in Michigan. Our Students for Choice groups serve as incredibly strong advocates for Planned Parenthood, and we are so thankful to have each and every one on board with us. ■



SNAPSHOTS