

# SNAPSHOTS

No. 30

**Planned  
Parenthood®**  
Act. No matter what.  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan



*Standing up for women (l to r): Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright, Rep. Dian Slavens, Rep. Vicki Barnett, Rep. Jim Townsend, Rep. Collene Lamonte, Rep. Gretchen Driskell.*

*“Thanks” cards were sent to legislators who stood with Michigan women and voted against the insurance ban. Legislators who voted for the insurance ban received “spanks” cards.*

## Michigan Plays Politics With Women’s Health

The past few weeks have been a busy time for PPAM. With rumors flying about if and when Republicans in Lansing would bring the so called “Abortion Insurance Opt-Out Act” up for a vote, we knew that women were watching—and we called on our supporters.

On Thursday, December 5, 2013, forty men and women in pink packed a room in the Capitol. We were joined by legislators who spoke passionately about their support for Planned Parenthood and their disapproval of the bill. During her address to supporters, Rep. Vicki Barnett stated, “It’s just one more attempt to make things unequal

again and codify in law that being a woman is a preexisting condition... This is not about choice. This is about violence against women and our ability to get health care in the state of Michigan.” Afterward, we moved to the House gallery where Rep. Barnett formally recognized PPAM supporters.

Despite our efforts, both the House and Senate voted on and passed the initiative on Wednesday, December 11—nearly one year to the date after the legislature passed a restrictive abortion ban and silenced women legislators for speaking out against its restrictive measures. Unfortunately, the way in which this initiative

was implemented, it is unable to be vetoed by the governor, who vetoed similar legislation last year.

On Thursday, December 12, we were once again in Lansing to deliver greeting cards to legislators. Depending on how they voted, legislators received either “thanks” or “spanks.” Afterward, we headed back to the House Gallery to let our representatives know that we’re not going away! Rep. Kate Segal and Rep. Phil Phelps came to the gallery to talk to us, express displeasure at the outcome, and let us know that they are not backing down.

**We are not backing down! We will bring the fight to 2014!**