

# The Public Affairs Pulse

## Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

### Governor Signs 5711 and Vetoes Insurance Ban

LANSING — In the last week of the 2011-2012 lame duck Michigan Legislative session, state lawmakers delivered a last-minute blow to women by sending a package of anti-women's health bills to Gov. Rick Snyder. Only weeks after an election where women's votes were pivotal, Michigan legislators ignored the will of voters and passed bills that jeopardize women's health.

Gov. Snyder vetoed SB 1293, an extreme provision passed by the lame duck legislature that would have banned insurance companies from providing abortion coverage, even in the cases of rape, incest, health of the woman, or fetal anomaly.

This is a victory for Michigan women whose health care would have been further jeopardized if the ban had become law. Planned Parenthood supporters and activists worked hard to let the governor know that the law would have had a devastating impact on the health of women statewide, and he listened.

Unfortunately, the governor signed HB 5711, the omnibus anti-abortion bill that has outraged advocates of women's health care since it was introduced in the spring. It creates unnecessary, burdensome, and costly licensing requirements for women's health centers and will reduce access to

comprehensive care. It requires health centers that perform abortions to build facilities similar to those of hospital operating rooms, despite the fact that such facilities are not warranted by the procedure. It also prevents the use of telemedicine technology to provide health care to many rural and poor women who do not otherwise have access to a provider.

HB 5711 is a dangerous attack on access to the full range of reproductive health care, but because of the tens of thousands of Planned Parenthood and women's health supporters across the state that sent emails, made phone calls, and rallied at the capitol, the final bill is less extreme than the original.

A measure banning abortion after 20 weeks under any and all circumstances, unreasonable requirements for doctors specializing in women's health care to carry \$1 million of liability insurance coverage, and a provision to require doctors to go back to a less safe and outdated protocol for medication abortion were struck from the final bill.

The amazing dedication of Planned Parenthood supporters helped us face unprecedented challenges and achieve tremendous victories in 2012. Throughout the year we sent a clear, unmistakable message to politicians who think they can play politics with women's health.

We will continue to provide women, men, and teens in Michigan with the services they need and deserve, and we will continue to fight back against dangerous attacks on basic health care — no matter what! Planned Parenthood health center doors are open today, and they will be open tomorrow.

### JET Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roe v Wade

GRAND RAPIDS — January 22, 2013, is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v Wade, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that legalized abortion and women's right to choose! To commemorate this milestone, the PPWNM Justice Engagement Team (JET) and pro-choice partners in Grand Rapids are hosting a creative writing project entitled "What Roe Means to Me." The deadline to participate is January 12, 2013. Full submission guidelines can be found at: <http://nowgr.org/2012/12/18/what-does-roe-v-wade-and-the-right-to-choose-mean-to-you/>.

On Wednesday, January 23 from 6–8 p.m. there will be a "birthday party" for Roe v Wade at Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE in Grand Rapids. Join us for cupcakes and celebrate 40 years of choice. Please RSVP to [publicaffairs@ppwnm.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ppwnm.org).

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