

The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

Vagina Flash Mob!

LANSING, MI — On September 20, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan (PPAM) and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan (ACLU Mich) joined forces to host the “Hands Off! Flash Mob Dance for Reproductive Justice.”



The event was the culmination of two weeks of online action focused around mobilizing Michigan citizens to call and e-mail their senators and the governor, telling them to reject HB 5711. This bill, known as the Omnibus Abortion Bill, is awaiting a vote on the Michigan Senate floor.

An instructional video was created and distributed online for people to learn the dance before the flash mob event on the Capitol lawn. The dance was coordinated to a parody of the song “Call Me Maybe” by Carly Rae Jepsen, with lyrics altered so the chorus went: “I’ve never met you, and this is shady, it’s my vagina, so hands off crazy.”

The event featured an

appearance by Pillamina, the Planned Parenthood birth control mascot. Participants received signs, t-shirts, and large foam hands that read, “Hands off women’s health care!”



Prior to the dance being performed, several Michigan representatives and senators spoke on the Capitol steps about the importance of voting and refusing to be silenced. Rep. Lisa Brown, notoriously censured earlier this year in the State House for speaking out against HB 5711, spoke, as did Sen. Rebekah Warren, and Kary Moss of the ACLU Mich. Moss rallied the crowd with chants of, “VAGINA! If you can’t say it, don’t legislate it!”

Students and legislators lead the dance from the Capitol steps with more than one hundred people dancing on the lawn. After the dance, attendees took over the Capitol Rotunda with chants of, “This is our House!” and, “We will remember in November!”

Please contact your senator and tell him or her to vote NO on HB 5711! For a direct link to

contact your elected officials, please visit: <http://miplannedparenthood.org/page/war-women-michigan>

Pledge to Vote Campaign Launched

September marked the beginning of the Pledge to Vote campaign in Planned Parenthood health centers across the state.

Each election year, Planned Parenthood works to engage patients, students, advocates, and supporters to vote in November. Pledge to Vote cards are available in all health centers and at outreach events until the end of October.

This campaign focuses on the importance of reminding people to vote. Reminder cards will be mailed to card signers in the week before the election reminding them to get to the polls on November 6.

If you are not currently registered to vote, please visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633-8716-8726-47669---,00.html>.

If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, please visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633-21037--,00.html>

If you are interested in volunteering with Planned Parenthood and helping with our voter mobilization efforts, please e-mail Dani Vilella, Public Affairs Manager at vilellad@ppwnm.org.

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