



CHOICES

we stand for answers | choice | the future | sexual health care

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From the Desk of Steve Trombley

Welcome to our newly redesigned *Choices* newsletter. While we will still be covering the same local, state and federal reproductive health care issues that you care about, the newsletter has been redesigned to a more environmentally and economically-friendly format, as well as a fresh new look. We hope you like it!

Speaking of new, I would also like to introduce PPIL's new Vice President of Development, Meagan Downey. Meagan comes to us with ten years of experience working for Chicago-area nonprofits serving economically disadvantaged people. While Meagan will be based in the Chicago administrative office, she looks forward to continuing to make

visits throughout the state to meet our Planned Parenthood supporters. Meagan can be reached at meagand@ppil.org or 312-592-6841.

Please join me in welcoming Meagan to PPIL.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will hopefully be closer to health care reform, although I have a feeling that it will continue to be a long haul throughout the winter. For the past several months, PPIL has been working with PPFA to identify target districts to concentrate our grassroots organizing efforts. Our volunteers and staff have been phone banking, sending postcards, writing letters and emails and attending town hall meetings to demonstrate Planned Parenthood's support for reform legislation that includes women's health care.

Health care reform has the potential to have a profound impact on the way in which

Planned Parenthood health centers deliver our care, so it's critical that we have a seat



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In the News

Chicago City Council Passes Bubble Zone Ordinance

On Wednesday, October 7, Chicago City Council voted in favor of the Bubble Zone Ordinance, a law that will protect patients, staff and volunteers from harassment and intimidation when entering or exiting a medical facility.

The law, which is an expansion of the Disorderly Conduct Ordinance, creates a protective zone within a 50-foot radius of the entrance of any health facility. In that zone, no one can get closer than eight feet to offer, counsel, hand out leaflets or display a sign unless the patient consents. Offense of any of these conducts comes with a fine of not more than \$500.

This is a huge victory for PPIL patients, staff and volunteers, who strongly advocated on behalf of this ordinance since PPIL health centers are so often the scene of demonstrations that block patients and staff from entering clinics safely.

“Existing law did not adequately protect the public safety around health care facilities,” said Steve Trombley, “A ‘bubble zone’ enhances public safety in a fair and constitutional manner that preserves freedom of speech rights.”

The number and aggressiveness of protestors in front of PPIL health centers has surged significantly since the May 31st assassination of Dr. George Tiller.

Protestors have taken to impersonating medical personnel, wearing white lab coats and stethoscopes, dispensing misinformation about the health care services offered by PPIL. They have also started wearing the

same color vests as PPIL clinic escorts, with “Parenthood Volunteer” and an icon that looks extremely similar to PPIL’s logo.

As patients and staff are entering and leaving the health care center, they are being yelled at, harassed and intimidated. “Protestors bring their young children and encourage them to shout things like, ‘I love being alive’ at our patients. To PPIL staff, they shout such hateful vitriol such as, ‘You work for the devil.’”

No one should have to endure this type of abuse. The Bubble Zone Ordinance, which will go into effect on November 17, will help ensure that those giving and seeking health care can safely enter and leave medical facilities, keep entrances open, maintain distance between individuals, minimize physical contact and reduce harassment and intimidation.

PPIL would like to extend a special thanks to the 28 alderman who voted in support of the Bubble Zone Ordinance, especially Alderman Vi Daley (D-43rd Ward), who courageously stood up to be the lead sponsor of the ordinance. And of course, thanks to all our supporters who wrote letters, made phone calls and so strongly advocated for this ordinance. We could not have done it without you!

To see how Chicago alderman voted for the Bubble Zone Ordinance, visit: www.plannedparenthood.org/illinois/bubble-zone-votes-30576.htm

Below: PPIL supporters out in full force at the October 7 City Council meeting.



Existing law did not adequately protect the public safety around health care facilities.

The Future of Choice
Celebrating
37 Years
of Roe v. Wade
January 21, 2010



Celebrity Guest
Dr. Ruth Westheimer

**Honoring Alderman Vi Daley,
Richard J Phelan Profile in
Courage Award.**

**Master of Ceremonies, Debby
Herbenick, Ph.D., Author,
Because It Feels Good**

Thursday, January 21, 2010
6:00 – 9:00 pm
Sofitel Hotel, Chicago

Cocktail reception, buffet dinner,
silent auction and live music.

To purchase tickets, contact
Andrea Cedusky at rsvp@ppil.org.



My goal is to help the thousands of women, men and teens who count on PPIL services every year.

Donor Profile: Susan Armstrong

Susan Armstrong is a longtime Planned Parenthood supporter from the Chicago area. Susan had the opportunity to talk with Development Assistant Jasmine Jackson about why she is involved with PPIL.

How did you first get involved in the issue of reproductive rights? I have been an advocate for reproductive health for as long as I can remember. While living in Louisville, Kentucky, I started writing letters to the editor on the issue. About ten years ago, I joined the Planned Parenthood family locally. My goal is to help the thousands of women, men and teens who count on PPIL services every year.

What are some of the volunteer activities in which you are involved? I have done everything from escorting patients to petitioning and phone banking for reproductive health legislation. After learning more about PPIL's peer education program, I know that is something I would like to be a part of because I think it's so critical that we are educating our teens about sexual health.

What has the most rewarding part about your involvement with PPIL? One of the most rewarding experiences I have had with Planned Parenthood has been escorting patients at the Near North Health Center. Though I have faced harassment from protestors, patients, and even pedestrians have thanked us for the service. Just hearing those words keeps me coming back to help more patients in need.

How else do you demonstrate your commitment to the cause? This May, I became a monthly sustainer donor so that I can automatically donate a certain amount of money to PPIL to support direct services. I also give to Planned Parenthood Illinois Action to support the political and advocacy efforts of the organization.

To become a monthly sustainer donor like Susan, visit www.ppil.org/donate.

From the Desk of Steve Trombley

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at the table and are actively involved in the debate. There have already been many fights throughout the process to both exclude contraception and abortion from the benefits package as well battles to be fought over the nature of separation required if abortion is excluded. Our task at hand is clear – women cannot be worse off after health care reform than they are now.

Our goals for health care reform legislation are very clear: Ensuring that reproductive health care is covered as a benefit, and ensuring that essential community providers like Planned Parenthood are covered in whatever network or exchange is created.

I know that your email inbox is probably overflowing with requests and correspondence, but I hope that when you hear from Planned Parenthood about the need to take action in support of health care reform, you will respond with enthusiasm. And if you're not already receiving these emails, please sign up at our (also newly redesigned) Planned Parenthood Illinois Action website, www.ppiaction.org.

Steve Trombley, President and CEO

PPIAction.org Launches

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Planned Parenthood Illinois Action (PPIA) website, www.ppiaction.org! The website, which went live this September, includes detailed information about everything you need to know about Planned Parenthood's political activities. Visit www.ppiaction.org to stay up to date on current issues, campaigns, elections, endorsed candidates and more. Make sure to sign up for action alerts to receive timely email notifications on the latest PPIA news and ways to get involved.



Medical Services Update: Parental Notification Now in Effect in Illinois

After 14 years of successfully keeping the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act of 1995 from being enforced, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the law. It went into effect on August 4, 2009.

Since then, the ACLU filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court on October 13, seeking an injunction against enforcement of the law.

What does the new parental notification law mean for Illinois teens? Before providing an abortion to a woman under the age of 18, the abortion provider must give at least 48 hours notice to an adult family member. As defined by the law, an adult family member is a parent, grandparent, step-parent or a legal guardian living in the home of the minor.

While we were prepared for the possibility that the Court of Appeals would issue this judgment, we had an incredible amount of work to do between the July 14 ruling and the August 4th implementation deadline to ensure that our providers had all of the information and training they need to comply with the law and that our teen clients understood how the law impacts them.

We believe the court made an unfortunate ruling that puts teens' lives at unnecessary risk, however, PPIL is committed to doing everything we can to make this new process as easy as possible for teens. We posted detailed information on our website to answer

any questions that teens may have about the law, and are using our extensive network of field staff and educators to make sure we are disseminating the information to minors.

PPIL also worked closely with the ACLU of Illinois on its judicial bypass project, a procedure that is in place so that teens who cannot – or should not – notify their parents can go to court to ask a judge for a notification waiver. We have been helping to identify attorneys across the state who are willing to serve as pro-bono legal counsel for these young women.

Planned Parenthood agrees that in an ideal world, parents would be involved in their teens' health care and engaged in healthy dialogue around responsible decision making. Most teens seek their parents' advice and counsel when making decisions about their health care. In fact, most teens who are seeking an abortion come to our health center with a parent.

But in some cases, safe and open communication is not possible. In those cases, research shows mandatory parental notice laws do not enhance parent-teen communication, but they may be harmful to teens' health and well-being. If our government and the courts really care about our teenage sons and daughters, they should focus on giving teens the information they need to make responsible decisions and continue to encourage healthy family communication, not erect barriers to critical health care services.



Above: Alison Conant, Doris Conant and Marcia Aduss at the 2010 Campaign Kick-Off

Right: Fay Clayton, Steve Trombley, Lowell Sachnoff, Representative Jan Schakowsky and Celinda Lake



Champaign Capital Campaign Update



The new facility in Champaign is even more critical now, given the economic and health care crisis.

In Champaign, Planned Parenthood has long provided high quality reproductive health care for tens of thousands of women, teens and men. Our present location on 302 E. Stoughton St. is ideal. The building itself has ample space, but both the interior and exterior are in need of a facelift, and the current configuration of the facilities is not set up well for our patients or staff.

On Friday, September 11, PPIL board member and Champaign resident, Joy Thornton-Walter, hosted a gathering of approximately 60 people to see the new vision for the Champaign health center. Members of the

Champaign Capital Campaign Committee, supporters, donors, staff and volunteers all expressed excitement and anticipation for the newly designed facility.

PPIL President and CEO, Steve Trombley, talked about how the environment in which we provide our programs and services is as important as the care and education our clients receive. The people who turn to PPIL deserve surroundings that are professional, attractive, secure and welcoming.

The new facility in Champaign is even more critical now, given the economic and health care crisis. As poverty, unemployment and

lack of health insurance are increasing in Champaign County and across central Illinois (Champaign Summit's "watch" list in 2008), and pregnancy, birth rates and STI rates continue to be above state averages, Planned Parenthood is faced with increased demand for access to reproductive health care services, resources, information and education. Planned Parenthood's new facility in Champaign will ensure we will be able to help to fulfill the community's growing health care needs.

The new state-of-the-art health care center will outwardly reflect the excellence of care taking place inside and will soon be an example of the commitment we have to our programs, services and most of all, our patients.

If you would like to make a donation to the Champaign Capital Campaign, please contact Meagan Downey at meagand@ppil.org or 312-592-6841.

HAPPENINGS

2010 Campaign Kick-Off

On July 19, PPIA board member Fay Clayton hosted a summer cocktail party to kick-off the campaign season. More than 80 friends of Planned Parenthood Illinois Action (PPIA), including special guests U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky and nationally-renowned pollster Celinda Lake, attended the event in Evanston.

Steve Trombley filled attendees in with details about PPIA's work in the upcoming election including candidate endorsements and field activities. There will be a lot of open and competitive seats at the local, statewide and federal level, with many opportunities for Planned Parenthood to play an active role in electing pro-choice, pro-family planning candidates. Rep. Schakowsky and Celinda Lake also

spoke about supporting reproductive health care in the upcoming election. Rep. Schakowsky addressed the health care reform legislation that is wending its way through Congress, while Celinda focused her remarks on the Reproductive Health and Access Act and what it's going to take to move it forward in the Illinois General Assembly in the next legislative session.

State Representative Julie Hamos and Alderman Toni Preckwinkle were also in attendance, as were many political candidates.

The event raised nearly \$30,000 to help fund PPIA's electoral activities. PPIA is the independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization formed as the advocacy and political arm of PPIL. To learn more visit www.ppiaction.org.

Save the Date!

The Future of Choice: Celebrating 35 Years of Roe v. Wade
Thursday, January 21, 2010
6:00 – 9:00 pm
Sofitel Hotel, Chicago

Spring Benefit
Thursday, April 1, 2010
6:00 – 9:00 pm
The I Hotel, Champaign

For further information, contact Andrea Cedusky at rsvp@ppil.org or 312-592-6838.

Make a Difference >>

\$30 provides emergency contraception to a woman in need.

\$75 sponsors comprehensive sex education for ten teenagers.

\$125 ensures a woman access to early cancer screening.

\$250 subsidizes an IUD for a woman who cannot afford to exercise reproductive self-determination.

\$500 provides one year of contraception for a woman planning her family.

\$1,000 makes primary, preventive care accessible and affordable for five women for an entire year.



Choose a new future for Illinois women and families. Choose Planned Parenthood of Illinois.

Since 1947, PPIL has promoted a commonsense approach to women's health and well-being, based on respect for each individual's right to make informed, independent decisions about reproductive health care. Our 19 health centers deliver vital health care services, sex education and sexual health information to more than 60,000 women, men and teens each year.

Support PPIL's mission by making a gift in any of the following ways:

To learn more, contact the development office at 312-592-6800 or contact a member of our team directly.

Meagan Downey

Vice President,
Development
312.592.6841

Jasmine Jackson

Assistant,
Development
312.592.6851

Katy Schafer

Manager,
Development
312.592.6836

Francesca Morris

Assistant,
Development
312.592.6858

Andrea Cedusky

Manager,
Special Events
312.592.6838

Respond Now Send a personal check or credit card contribution using the attached form, or visit www.ppil.org/donate to make a donation online.

Take Advantage Gifts of appreciated securities, stocks and bonds often benefit the donor as well as the recipient. Ask your broker to call us for delivery instructions.

Sustain Contact us or visit www.ppil.org/donate to set-up a monthly donation. We will acknowledge your contribution at the end of the year.

Leave a Legacy Deferred gifts such as bequests and charitable gift annuities allow you to secure our future while leaving a legacy. Planned gifts often provide significant tax advantages to the donor. Contact us to learn more.

Take the Lead Demonstrate your commitment to PPIL by making a leadership gift of \$1,000 or more. Payments can be made all at once or in installments over a period of time.

Multiply If your employer offers a matching gift program, notify them of your gift to us. Doing so can double or even triple the value and impact.

Honor, Celebrate, Remember Honor your friends and loved ones with a gift that gives again. Make a tribute gift for birthdays, Mother's Day, anniversaries or just because.

Spread the Word Host an event to introduce new supporters to PPIL. Trivia nights, cocktail parties and email campaigns can be fun and educational. Our staff would be happy to assist you with ideas, planning and materials to ensure success.

Administrative Office

18 S. Michigan Ave., 6th Floor, | Chicago, IL 60603 | www.ppil.org/donate

