

TAKE ACTION – PROTECT TITLE X!

On November 21, 2006, Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt announced the appointment of anti-birth control, anti-sex education hardliner Eric Keroack to the position of deputy assistant secretary for population affairs (DASPA). The DASPA oversees Title X, the nation's family planning program, which provides high-quality family planning and preventive health care services to more than five million low-income individuals annually, helping prevent more than one million unintended pregnancies each year. Over its 30 year life, Title X has helped women avoid almost 20 million unintended pregnancies.

Dr. Keroack is currently the medical director for A Woman's Concern (AWC), a network of so-called "crisis pregnancy health centers" in the greater Boston area. In addition to their strict anti-choice policies, under Dr. Keroack's supervision, AWC health centers will not distribute, encourage the use of, or offer referrals for contraceptive drugs and devices. AWC states on its web site that the distribution of contraceptive drugs or devices is "demeaning to women, degrading of human sexuality and adverse to human health and happiness." Additionally, according to The New York Times, when speaking at abstinence conferences across the country, and in his writings, Dr. Keroack has promoted the novel argument that sex with multiple partners alters brain chemistry in a way that makes it harder for women to form bonding relationships (one of the researchers

cited by Dr. Keroack has called the claim "complete pseudoscience" unsupported by her findings).

"Keroack's professional history makes clear he should be stamped with a warning label against women's health and safety," said Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "Appointing an individual who has crusaded against birth control to head the nation's family planning program makes a mockery of women's health. Keroack's appointment ought to be pulled immediately."

25 organizations, including Planned Parenthood, have signed a letter urging Secretary Leavitt to reconsider Dr. Keroack's appointment. Some of the co-signing organizations include: Advocates for Youth, American Public Health Association, Catholics for Free Choice, NARAL Pro-Choice America, National Abortion Federation, National Council of Jewish Women, National Organization for Women, National Women's Law Center, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

If you would like to add your voice to the growing chorus of outraged citizens, you can visit www.saveroe.com and click on the 'take action to protect women's health' link. If you need additional information, please contact Keri at keria@ppmet.org or 615-345-0952.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Rev. Dan Rosemergy, Chair
Amadou Sall, Vice Chair
Ceci Sachs, Secretary
Charles Robert Bone, Treasurer

Amy Lee Bell
John Bridges
Pamela Burton
Dr. Susan Dodd
Bev Leiser
Dr. Lorayne Lester
Sally Levine
Dr. Marian Patton
Timothy Quain
Elizabeth Slagle Todaro
Amy Wheeler
Rachel Woods

FROM THE CEO

I'm going to share some disturbing information with you. This information is troublesome from two perspectives — one from a social perspective, the other from a financial perspective — and both highlight our failure to make wise investments.



Jeff Teague
President and CEO

So what is this troubling information? Too many teens are becoming mothers and it is costing US taxpayers a lot of money.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy recently released a report titled *By the Numbers: The Public Cost of Teen Childbearing*. The report reiterates some facts that we have heard before. For example, the United States has the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates among the industrialized nations, rates that are two to six times higher than those in France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden. We also have higher rates of sexually transmitted infections and abortion than other industrialized nations.

The report also points out that teen mothers are more likely to drop out of school, remain unmarried and to live in poverty. The children of these teen mothers are more likely to experience abuse and neglect. The daughters of teen mothers are more likely to become teen mothers themselves; the sons of teen mothers are more likely to end up in jail or prison.

Here are some other social costs and statistics from the report:

- **One in three** American teenage girls will be pregnant at least once before the age of 20.
- More than **400,000 children** are born to teen mothers each year in the US.
- Approximately **80 percent** of the births are to unmarried teen mothers.
- Tennessee ranks **40th** (out of 50) in the number of teen births with over **10,000 teen births each year**.

So what does all of this cost us financially? The numbers are staggering.

Nationally, teen childbearing costs taxpayers approximately \$9.1 billion annually. Yes, you read correctly -- **\$9.1 BILLION per year!**

In Tennessee, the cost to taxpayers is \$181 million annually, with 61% or approximately \$110 million coming from state and local revenues. Each year, taxpayers in Tennessee spend \$3,404 for each child born to a teen mother. These costs include public healthcare, child welfare, incarceration and lost tax revenues from decreased earnings and spending.

So what are we doing wrong? We are not making wise investments and are wasting limited resources on programs and policies that have consistently been discredited.

Instead of fully funding the Title X Family Planning Program, Congress and the current administration have held funding at the same level for the past six years. With more people demanding services and the costs of healthcare continuing to rise at alarming rates, the result is a decrease in terms of real dollars available to provide low-cost birth control.

Nashville Health Center
412 D.B. Todd Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37203
phone: 615.321.7216
fax: 615.320.5233

Knoxville Health Center
8078 Kingston Pike, Ste. 153
Knoxville, TN 37919
phone: 865.694.7155
fax: 865.694.7154

Education & Training Services
Knoxville Area 865.385.3333
Nashville Area 615.345.0952

Administrative Office
50 Vantage Way, Ste. 102
Nashville, TN 37228
phone: 615.345.0952
fax: 615.345.0958

www.ppmet.org

**We're More
Than You Think.**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 2491

 **Planned Parenthood**[®]
of Middle & East Tennessee, Inc.
50 Vantage Way, Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37228

EAST TENNESSEE COMES TOGETHER AT ARTS & EATS 2006

Over 125 supporters gathered on October 20, 2006 to enjoy Arts & Eats, our annual taste, music, and arts event. Currently in its 9th year, Arts & Eats featured over 220 live and silent auction items, including works from both local and national artists. Highlights of the evening included hand-blown glass vases from Curt Brock



Three generations of Choice supporters at Arts & Eats 2006.

from the Appalachian Center for Crafts, gorgeous art pieces from Marcia Goldenstein and Beauvais Lyons, and tasty treats from Starbucks, Ben & Jerry's, and Three Rivers Market.

As always, live auctioneer Bear Stephenson kept the crowd excited with his rapid-fire delivery and incredible charisma. Many thanks to this year's Arts & Eats committee and to all our East Tennessee supporters who attended the event or donated items. We couldn't have done it without you!

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IS FINALLY AVAILABLE FOR OVER-THE-COUNTER USE!

On November 15, PPMET began providing Emergency Contraception (EC) for over-the-counter use to patients 18 years old and older. Strict guidelines for dispensing EC require that each patient present proper identification to verify age. These guidelines are similar to those used to sell cigarettes and beer. EC can be sold over-the-counter to both males and females who present proper identification and costs much less than what retail pharmacies are charging.

For those patients who are 17 years old or younger or those who do not have proper identification, a prescription will still be required.

EC, when taken within 5 days of unprotected sex, may prevent pregnancy. Working much like regular birth control pills, EC prevents ovulation and fertilization. It will not interfere with an existing pregnancy and, therefore, does not cause an abortion.

The battle for granting EC over-the-counter (OTC) status was hard fought and often contentious. Thanks to all of you who communicated your outrage over the politicization of the approval process to the FDA and your legislators over the last few years – this win is proof that using your voice works!

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

Protect our freedom and give a gift that changes lives this holiday – make a donation in honor of a friend or family member! Just fill out the enclosed donor envelope and PPMET will do the rest. If you would like to send multiple gifts or attach a special holiday message, please contact Jeanna Emert in PPMET's Development Office at 615-345-0952.

FEDERALLY FUNDED "ABSTINENCE EDUCATION" PROGRAMS: HOW ARE YOUR TAX DOLLARS BEING USED?

Earlier this year the federal government announced its updated and expanded funding of the "Community Based Abstinence Education" grants. How much do you know about these programs? Take the following quiz to find out. Answers are listed on the next page.

1. True or False: There are two basic types of sexuality education programs: Those that teach Abstinence, and those that teach Safer Sex.
2. True or False: Most parents would prefer their teens not be taught about contraceptives and condoms.
3. Under current guidelines, during a federally funded "Abstinence" education program, if a teen asks a question about proper use of a condom or contraception, the educator may...
 - a. Explain that protective methods are not to be discussed in detail, and give the student information about how to get his/her questions answered;
 - b. Answer only the direct question that was asked, but not elaborate;
 - c. Discuss and stress only the failure rates of condoms and/or contraceptive methods;
 - d. Return another day, and when not acting under the auspices of the grant, provide the information asked.
4. True or False: According to federally funded "Abstinence" programs, abstinence must not be referred to as a form of contraception.
5. For federally funded "Abstinence Education" programs, abstinence is defined as refraining until marriage from (marriage defined as "a legal union between one man and one woman as a husband and wife"):
 - a. "penile/vaginal intercourse, oral/genital sexual stimulation, and penile/anal intercourse."
 - b. "any type of genital contact or sexual stimulation between two persons."
6. True or False: Teaching teens in a positive way about contraceptives and condoms sends a "mixed," permissive message, and leads to higher rates of sexual activity among program participants.
7. True or False: The programs that have been proven to be most effective in actually getting teens to postpone sexual intercourse are programs that include knowledge and skills about both abstinence and contraception/condoms.
8. In 2005, programs in Tennessee received more than \$4,000,000 in federal abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

READY TO TAKE ACTION?

PPMET and Memphis Regional Planned Parenthood have received a \$1,000 grant from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America to fund state-wide Live Action Camps (LAC). The LACs are intensive, one day, hands-on skills training workshops for activists. Activities might include phone banking, door-to-door canvassing, lobby and media training, message development and leadership skills-building. LACs are tentatively scheduled for 2007 in Nashville, 2008 in Knoxville, and 2009 in Memphis. We look forward to working with Memphis PP and to bringing together some of our state's most passionate and committed students from Memphis to East Tennessee!

ELECTION BOOT CAMP

Leading up to this mid-term election cycle, several states – South Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and California – faced stiff ballot initiatives and/or strong anti-choice opposition in gubernatorial races. From parental notification to complete abortion bans, these states needed help! Thus, Election Boot Camp was conceived: a rigorous, non-stop tour de force for activists. An S.O.S. sounded across the country and Planned Parenthood affiliates responded. To fill the ranks three PPMET staffers accepted the challenge: Jeanna Emert, Director of Development; Kayce Matthews, Teen Theatre Troupe Coordinator and Educator; and Jessica Dauphin, Community Affairs Coordinator.



PPMET employees Jessica, Kayce, Jeanna.

out to as many voters as possible, help them understand the dangers of Prop 85, and get them to commit to voting "No." The campaign was successful – Prop. 85 was defeated! Jeanna, Kayce, and Jessica were asked to reflect on their experiences.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS:

"Working with PPLA on the No on 85 Campaign was definitely a huge change from what we're used to in Tennessee. The first thing that struck me, of course, is that California is truly a pro-choice state: they have a supportive legislature; they try to provide accurate and comprehensive sex ed in public schools; etc." —Jeanna

"My first experience was a brief orientation followed by an evening of phone banking and trying to recruit volunteers. This was a great way for me to hone my phone skills. We also made cold calls to talk to voters about Prop 85. I had several people really listen and ask questions. They wanted the information and were interested in the pros and cons. All in all, the time spent phone banking was very positive." —Kayce

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

"I was a little scared at first to walk up to doors or call voters on the phone to talk to them about abortion, but there was no reason for me to be – the majority of the people I spoke with were PP supporters and planning to Vote No on 85. Most of the time people who were undecided were willing to hear me out on the subject. It was a breath of fresh air to be surrounded by so many awesome volunteers and activists who were able to be so vocal about their pro-choice beliefs and the fact

that they supported Planned Parenthood." —Jeanna

"My days were mainly spent on California State University at Los Angeles (CSULA) and University of Southern California (USC) campuses talking to classrooms and students about the dangers of Prop 85 and the new reality it would create if allowed to pass into law. My nights, as well as Kayce and Jeanna's, were spent calling as many voters and volunteers as possible." —Jessica

"The highlight of the trip was the time that Jessica and I spent at CSULA. We had the opportunity to go into actual classrooms and talk to students about the issues surrounding Prop 85. I thought it was great that the professors allowed us class time to do that." —Kayce

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU GAINED?

"Through my participation in Election Boot Camp I grew personally and professionally. Professionally, I seized the opportunity to expand my abilities and skill sets so that I could be more effective for PPMET. I feel that the experiences there – canvassing, phone banking, in-person volunteer recruitment, class raps, and working around a much larger affiliate – will translate into becoming a better employee and will lead to a more comprehensive and involved volunteer program at PPMET." —Jessica

"As an educator, I really enjoyed the academic setting and probably benefited most from my time spent on campus. Overall, this trip was a great way for me to push my own boundaries and learn more about how to win an election!" —Kayce



Kayce tabling at CSULA.

"Working in California and seeing the No on 85 Campaign win against religious extremists gave me great hope for the future of our own state. It seems as though women in Tennessee are taking two steps back for every step forward, and it's difficult in our current climate to be "out" as pro-choice. I believe very strongly that the time to be silent about reproductive freedom in Tennessee is past. The only way we will protect our rights (and those of our daughters, sisters, and friends) is to be loud and proud about our values." —Jeanna

SAVE THE DATE FOR ROE!

After the New Year, don't forget about the 34th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade on January 22, 2007, PPMET will be looking back on the pivotal Roe decision and reminding ourselves how important it remains today. To celebrate, PPMET will be participating in events in Knoxville and Nashville. You'll receive an email with details soon. Please visit ppmet.org, and click on 'get involved'. If you have any questions, please call Jessica at 615-277-1466 or email jessicad@ppmet.org.

Answers to Abstinence Quiz:

1. **FALSE.** Many zealous proponents of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs would have you believe that theirs are the only programs teaching teens how to postpone sex. In fact, Planned Parenthood's comprehensive programs have always included information and skills about both abstinence and protection. The real dividing line is between those programs that teach both (like PPMET's), and those that 1) are completely silent about contraception and condoms, or 2) speak only derisively about protection, stressing failure rates.
2. **FALSE.** Most parents—85% according to one survey—prefer their teens receive positive teaching about condoms, contraception, and abstinence.
3. **C.** Those receiving federal Abstinence Education funding may speak only negatively about contraception, or not at all. They may not refer teens to other sources of information. They may not partially answer a question unless it stresses failure. And they may not teach the same teens about contraception at another time while acting under the auspices of another source of funding.

4. **TRUE.** This is because a new regulation requires that information about contraception be "medically accurate." By not listing abstinence as a form of contraception, teachers may make claims about abstinence and sex that is not supported by any scientific evidence (such as, "Sex before marriage is likely to cause physical and psychological harm").
5. **B.** Though we do not know the details of enforcing this guideline, it would appear that, according to this definition, kissing is suspect.
6. **FALSE.** Even programs that *distribute* contraceptives and condoms do not increase sexual activity.
7. **TRUE.** Comprehensive programs have a better track record at achieving teen abstinence than abstinence-only programs.
8. **TRUE.** In 2005 programs in Tennessee received more than \$4,000,000 in federal abstinence-only-until-marriage funds.