

# public affairs update

## *Bush Administration announces ruling on HHS Midnight Regulation*

In mid-December, the Bush Administration announced a ruling on the HHS midnight regulation that gives doctors and health care providers who receive federal funding the right to withhold services from patients without the patients' knowledge. They have this right if a procedure or service conflicts with their ideology.

"For any health provider to intentionally withhold information about widely embraced treatment options from a patient — for any health condition — is absolutely unconscionable under any circumstances," Planned Parenthood Federation of America released in a statement. "It's outrageous that President Bush is using his last days in office to implement a rule that would limit the rights of patients to receive complete and accurate reproductive health information."

The regulation is set to go into effect just days before the Obama administration takes office. Planned Parenthood Federation of America has asked President-Elect Obama to immediately work to reverse the regulation. Planned Parenthood has already started organizing around the country urging everyone to sign a petition to the Obama Transition Team. In the coming weeks, Planned Parenthood will receive more details on how this drastic measure will affect our day to day work.

*(Public Affairs Update Continues on Other Side)*

## Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Phone Banks: *RSVP by calling 215-351-5567*  
January 14th - 6:00-8:00pm at 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
January 27th - 6:00-8:00pm at 216 W. State Street, Media
- Brown Bag Lunch: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
February 2nd - 12:00-1:30pm
- Volunteer Night: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
January 21st - 5:30-8:00pm

*To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the External Affairs Department at: 215.351.5585 or by email at: [externalaffairs@ppsp.org](mailto:externalaffairs@ppsp.org)*

call 215.351.5585  
visit [www.ppsp.org](http://www.ppsp.org)

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Southeastern Pennsylvania

# public affairs update cont.

## *Planned Parenthood Holds Women's Health Matters Conversations Around the Country*

In response to a call from the Obama-Biden Transition team for input in health care reform, Planned Parenthood mobilized its base throughout the country asking supporters to hold Women's Health Matters Conversations with friends, families, and the general public. PPSP decided to survey staff, volunteers, supporters, and general community members via an online survey asking people questions about women's health issues. The survey collected responses from 185 respondents including students and professionals in a variety of industries. Here is a summary of the findings:

### *Biggest Problem in Health Care System?*

Ninety-two respondents (50.3%) cited the cost of health insurance as the biggest problem in the health care system. Fifty-two respondents (28.4%) identified the cost of health care services as the 2nd largest problem in the health care system.

### *Biggest Problem Women Face in Accessing the Health Care System?*

The majority of the responses fell into the following categories:

- Lack of affordable health care and/or affordable coverage
- Lack of access to unbiased and equal services (including abortion and birth control)
- Lack of insurance due to cost, pre-existing conditions, or coverage of specific services such as birth control
- Lack of education and preventive services
- Lack of quality health care providers

### *The following were also cited repeatedly:*

- the cost to doctors (specifically in PA due to malpractice suits)
- a lack of emphasis or priority on women's health
- the red tape or bureaucracy when it comes to dealing with insurance companies.

### *Why is Women's Health care important to you?*

The majority of the responses fell into the following categories:

- Being able to stay healthy to fulfill other responsibilities, caring for families, and being productive members of the workforce and the society as a whole
- Lack of access and a need for more affordable services and comprehensive insurance coverage
- As women, women's health care is of utmost importance to them.
- Prevention and the ability to access quality health care to address issues upfront
- Inequality and underrepresentation in addition to having different needs from men
- The ability to control their own bodies and make informed choices

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