

public affairs update

Attacks on Planned Parenthood Fail in VA & IA

Virginia's State Senate targeted Planned Parenthood from receiving state funding for prevention health care services including gynecological exams, pap smears, cancer screenings, contraception, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

Iowa's State House redirected funds from the Healthy Families Project line-item, which funds family planning services for low-income and uninsured women, to "crisis pregnancy centers." These centers have been known to use anti-choice propaganda, medically inaccurate or incomplete information, and intimidation tactics to dissuade women from having abortions.

In the end, budget conference committees, made up of legislators from the State House and Senate, successfully overturned these anti-choice attacks and restored funding for family planning services in both states.

In addition, five states are already promoting anti-choice ballot initiatives: California, Missouri, South Dakota, Colorado and Montana.

Are these efforts the latest trends by the anti-choice movement to attack Planned Parenthood and its services? For more information, please contact the External Affairs Department at 215-351-5510 or externalaffairs@ppsp.org.

Senator Casey Supports Restoring Affordable Birth Control

In January 2007, a legislative error went into effect preventing college health centers and safety net providers from purchasing low-cost birth control. As a result, birth control prices increased by as much 900% across the country!

Thanks to your work advocating for Congress to "represent" you in this battle, Senator Bob Casey has joined the fight to fix skyrocketing birth control prices. Senator Casey recently co-sponsored The Prevention Through Affordable Access Act. This bill would bring back affordable birth control on college campuses and at other safety net providers.

To thank Senator Casey for his leadership on this important issue, please contact the External Affairs Department at 215-351-5510 or externalaffairs@ppsp.org.

call 215.351.5510
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 Planned Parenthood®
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Committee Holds Hearing on Failed Program

On April 23, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing to examine the \$1.5 billion failure of government-funded abstinence-only programs. Public health experts and young people testified and urged lawmakers to reconsider the abysmally poor use of taxpayer dollars.

Recently, a CDC study found that at least one in four teen girls has a sexually transmitted infection (STI), and that the teen birthrate is on the rise for the first time in 16 years. To date, 17 states have refused to accept federal funds for abstinence-only programs. It's time to put our money toward real solutions that will help prevent sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies among teenagers.

Planned Parenthood is a leading advocate for school education programs that will keep teens healthy — by including information about abstinence as well as contraception, healthy communication, responsible decision making, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

To contact your legislators about this public health crisis, please contact the External Affairs Department at 215-351-5510 or externalaffairs@ppsp.org.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- 12th Annual Spring Gathering
Keynote Address by Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin
Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, PA
Monday, May 5th - 5:00-8:00pm
- Outreach & Tabling Training at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Tuesday, May 13th - 5:30-8:00pm
- Patient Escort Training at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, May 14th - 5:30-7:00pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, May 21st - 5:00-7:30pm

To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the External Affairs Department at externalaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5585.