

# public affairs update

## *Senate Confirms Kansas Governor Sebelius as Obama's HHS Secretary*

In late April, the Senate confirmed Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. As countless women and their families are struggling to afford quality health care during these difficult times, the HHS Secretary's role has never been more critical. Senator Arlen Specter and Senator Bob Casey both voted to confirm Governor Sebelius as HHS Secretary.

"We applaud Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' confirmation as secretary of health and human services," said Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "She is an excellent choice to lead HHS and has a proven track record of increasing access to affordable care."

"As countless women and their families struggle to afford quality health care during these difficult economic times, the need for health care reform that improves health outcomes is immediate," said Richards. "Her ability to work in a bipartisan fashion will serve her well as the Obama administration and Congress tackle the critical issue of health care reform for American families. We look forward to working with her and the administration to expand access to care and lower health care costs."

### **Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!**

- Phone Bank: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
May 13th - 5:30-8:00pm - RSVP to 215-351-5585
- PPSP's 13th Annual Spring Gathering at Loews Philadelphia with Amy Goodman  
May 13th - 5:00pm - Buy tickets at [www.ppsp.org](http://www.ppsp.org) or call 215-351-5552
- Clinic Advocacy Training: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
May 19th -6:00-7:30pm - RSVP to 215-351-5567
- Volunteer Night: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
May 20th - 5:00-7:30pm - RSVP to 215-351-5567

*For more 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)

 Planned Parenthood®  
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# public affairs update cont.

## National Update:

### *FDA Allows EC to be sold OTC to Women Ages 17 Years & Older in Response to Court Ruling*

The Food and Drug Administration has allowed Plan B, also known as Emergency Contraception to be available over-the-counter to women 17 years of age and older. This move is in response to a federal judge's ruling in March which gave the FDA 30 days to make Plan B available over the counter to women age 17 and older.

Prior to the ruling, Plan B was available over the counter to women age 18 and older, and with a prescription to women younger than 18. The court also ordered the FDA to reconsider whether minors under age 17 should be permitted to obtain emergency contraception over the counter.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America released a statement from Cecile Richards applauding the FDA's announcement: "Today's announcement by the FDA is a strong statement to American women that their health comes before politics. And that's the way it should be. This decision is commonsense policy that will help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and protect the health and safety of all women."

"The US has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among the most developed countries in the world. Providing birth control, including emergency birth control, to young women helps them make responsible decisions and avoid unintended pregnancy."

## State Update:

### *Two Sex Ed Bills Healthy Youth Act and Notice Home Act Introduced in PA House*

Great news! Both the Healthy Youth Act and the Notice Home Act were introduced in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives during the last week of April. Representative Chelsa Wagner (D-Allegheny) introduced the Healthy Youth Act with 36 co-sponsors. Representative Eddie Day Pashinski (D-Luzerne) introduced the Notice Home Act with 31 co-sponsors. Both bills provide standards for sexuality education and parental notification.