

public affairs update

Victory Step Towards Affordable Birth Control!

Since 2007, college and low-income women have faced soaring costs of contraceptives, due to a legislative oversight. Planned Parenthood is working hard with Congress to fix this birth control pricing crisis. Thanks to the efforts of supporters like you, last week, we scored an important step towards victory!

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly voted to include a provision in the FY08 Emergency Supplemental bill that will restore affordable birth control. Now, it's up to the U.S. House to make this a reality for the millions of women it impacts. The House could vote in early June on this important issue.

We are so close to making affordable birth control a reality again. Please call the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi at 202-225-4965 and urge her to pass the bill to restore access to affordable birth control!

For more information, please contact the External Affairs Department at 215-351-5510 or externalaffairs@ppsp.org for more information.

Gonorrhea cases up 80 percent in Delaware County

The Pennsylvania Department of Health recently reported there has been an 80 percent increase in the number of cases of gonorrhea in Delaware County. More than half of the reported cases are in young people between 15 and 24, which is up from 2006. Sixty percent of all those infected are women.

A recent CDC study found that at least 1 in 4 teen girls has a STI. Young people account for nearly half of the 18.9 million new STI cases each year even though they only comprise a quarter of the sexually active populace.

The national policy of promoting abstinence-only programs is a \$1.5 billion failure, and our youth are paying the real price. Ninety percent of the public supports proven-effective, accurate sexuality education. It's time to put public money toward real education that will help prevent sexually transmitted infections among our youth.

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 **Planned Parenthood**[®]
Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

American Lives in Jeopardy...Will Bush Attack?

The Bush Administration may attack reproductive health care one last time by issuing a new rule that would eviscerate today's national family planning program. This would be President Bush's parting gift to the extreme right.

More than 80 extremist organizations have petitioned the White House to reinstate the Reagan-era domestic gag rule and separation requirements around the Title X program. The Title X Program provides a wide range of preventive health care services to a vulnerable population. For decades, anti-family planning extremists and members of Congress have attempted to weaken the Title X Program. But, vote after vote, Congress has stood up for the integrity of Title X.

At a time when more and more Americans are either uninsured or struggling with the soaring costs of healthcare, any attempt to undermine the Title X program will have disastrous effects on the nation's health care safety net and the millions of Americans served by it. This proposed rule change is about extreme ideology trumping commonsense health care policy.

Dedicated to the protection of women's health and safety, Planned Parenthood is launching a full-scale awareness campaign, to ensure that elected officials and members of the media are aware of this potential rule change. For more information or to contact your legislators, please contact the External Affairs Department at 215-351-5510 or externalaffairs@ppsp.org.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Volunteer Night at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, June 18th - 5:00-7:30pm
- Cocktails for a Cause: Bump Lounge, 1234 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Tuesday, June 24th - 5:00-8:00pm
- Outreach & Tabling Training at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, June 25th - 5:30-8:00pm

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