

public affairs update

Planned Parenthood Joins National Coalition

Planned Parenthood has joined Health Care for America Now (HCAN) to begin work with a broad coalition of partners to urge the next president and Congress to pass legislation in 2009 that guarantees quality, affordable health care for every American.

The organizations involved represent labor, community organizations, doctors, nurses, women, small businesses, faith-based organizations, people of color, netroots activists, and think tanks, and Planned Parenthood is proud to be a leading member of this diverse group.

Health Care for America Now offers a bold new vision for health care reform: Americans can keep the private insurance they have, join a new private insurance plan, or choose a public health insurance plan. The campaign also calls for a government role in setting and enforcing rules on the insurance industry, which consistently charges whatever it wants, sets high deductibles, denies coverage based on pre-existing conditions, and drops coverage when people get sick.

New HIV rates 40% higher than estimated

The number of new HIV infections in the United States has been significantly underreported. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study showing the annual infection rate is 40 percent higher than previously estimated. The CDC had been reporting 40,000 people get infected each year, but now the estimate is 56,000.

The findings confirm that HIV rates are highest among men who have sex with men and African-American women and men. Infection rates among blacks are seven times as high as for whites and three times as high for Hispanics. Over one-third of new HIV infections are occurring in 13 to 29-year-olds. Since 2002, the CDC's prevention budget has shrunk by 19 percent when adjusted for inflation.

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 Planned Parenthood®
Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

President Bush to sellout women's health care

The Bush administration is considering a new Health and Human Services (HHS) rule that would undermine women's access to medical services and information. The rule would allow federal funding that is specifically designed to prevent unintended pregnancy and promote reproductive health to instead be used by facilities and providers that refuse to offer comprehensive reproductive healthcare services, such as birth control.

This proposed rule will put women's access to birth control and the information they need to make healthcare decisions at risk. The proposed rule will redefine abortion to include some of the most common and effective methods of birth control. As a result, women's ability to manage their own healthcare is at risk of being compromised by politics and ideology.

Planned Parenthood knows the importance of full, accurate information and honest communication between patients and medical providers. Planned Parenthood strongly opposes the Bush administration's proposed rule. We have a chance to stop President Bush's sellout of women's health care. Please contact the External Affairs Department at 215-351-5510 or externalaffairs@ppsp.org for more information.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Planned Parenthood Visibility Event (Location: TBA)
Tuesday, August 12th - 5:30-6:30pm
- Wine & Wednesday Phone Bank: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, August 13th - 5:30-8:00pm
- Margarita Thursday Phone Bank: 19 Lindenwold Ave, Ambler
Thursday, August 21st - 5:30-8:00pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, August 20th - 5:00-7:30pm
- Patient Escort Training at PPSP: 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Monday, August 25th - 5:30-7:00pm

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