

public affairs update

this edition brought to you by the PP PA PAC

Sex Ed Update!

For more than a year, we have been advocating for a bill called the Healthy Youth Act (HB1163), which would require public schools in Pennsylvania to teach comprehensive sex education. Despite successfully moving out of the Pennsylvania State House Education Committee in late April 2010, the Healthy Youth Act will not move to the full house floor during this session, which ends in December.

The budget crisis and more created a hostile environment where party politics prevented many bills from receiving consideration by the PA House of Representatives - unfortunately, the Healthy Youth Act was one of those bills. However, it is important to know that the bill has the support of both Democrats and Republicans, pro-choice and anti-choice legislators, and we believe could have garnered enough votes needed for passage if it came up for a vote.

While this news may seem discouraging, it is not. It's common for legislation to take years to pass and we did some incredible grass-roots work that moved this issue to the forefront of legislators' minds. Members have left Harrisburg for summer recess with the knowledge, thanks to help from supporters, patients, and staff, that their constituents strongly support comprehensive sex education in public schools, and that we have a public health crisis in the Commonwealth that must be addressed.

Planned Parenthood & others are proud of the progress made on HB1163 and are confident that the issue of teen health and comprehensive sexuality education was heard loud and clear in the PA legislature. Thank you for your dedication and help on this issue.

Health Care Reform Update:

This summer, the Obama administration announced a decision "to impose limits on private funds used to purchase health insurance coverage for abortion care in the new high-risk insurance pools." While temporary due to the nature of the high-risk pools, this is still a major blow to women. In a statement, PPFA President Cecile Richards called this decision "voluntary and unnecessary."

public affairs update cont.
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Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Phone banking:
1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia - RSVP to 215-351-5585
 - Monday, September 13th - 6:00-8:00pm
 - Tuesday, September 21st - 6:00-8:00pm
 - Monday, September 27th - 6:00-8:00pm
 - Wednesday, September 29th - 6:00-8:00pm
- Canvassing: *Exact locations to be announced*
 - Saturday, September 11th - Delaware Co.
approximately 10am-3pm
 - Saturday, September 25th - Pottstown
approximately 10am-3pm
- Volunteer Night: **Wednesday, September 15th** - 5:00-7:30pm
1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia - RSVP to 215-351-5544
- An Evening with Cecile Richards: **Wednesday, September 15th**
A Fundraiser for Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates & PAC
6:00-8:00pm, Chestnut Hill, \$100/person
Location to be Disclosed to Ticket Holders Only

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.