

public affairs update

HHS 'Provider Conscience Regulation' Update:

On Tuesday, August 26th the Department of Health and Human Services formally proposed a rule that could severely undermine women's access to healthcare. Planned Parenthood has been anticipating and preparing for this for some time, as a draft of the proposal was leaked several weeks before.

If made final, this regulation could severely impede access to basic health care services and gut state laws and policies designed to ensure individuals and families can obtain the care they need. At a time when our country is engaged in a rigorous debate about reforming our health care system, it is troubling that the Bush Administration is proposing a regulation that only serves to limit health care options for patients.

Not only is the rule dangerously vague, it also allows for any employee of a federally-funded entity to deny any patient access to or a referral for important health care services, including birth control. In the same vein, entire facilities could refuse to make birth control available- regardless of state laws to the contrary.

We have only 30 days to comment on this regulation! For more information on this process, please contact the External Affairs Department at externalaffairs@ppsp.org or (215) 351.5567.

September 2008

www.ppsp.org

Governor Rendell Applies for Title V Funding!

We recently learned that Governor Rendell has applied for Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage funds. As you know, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs withhold vital health information and completely disregard the health and well-being of GLBT teens. From Arizona to Montana, and Virginia to Ohio, more than 20 Governors across the country have stopped participating in the Title V program.

For more information on this subject, please contact the External Affairs Department at externalaffairs@ppsp.org or (215) 351.5567.

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 **Planned Parenthood**[®]
Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

Microbicides: What Are They?

The word 'microbicides' actually refers to a range of different products that share one common characteristic: the ability to prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) when applied topically. A microbicide could be produced in many forms, including gels, creams, suppositories, films, or as a sponge or ring that releases the active ingredient over time.

Scientists are currently testing many substances to see whether they help protect against HIV and/or other STIs, but no safe and effective microbicide is currently available to the public. However, scientists are seriously pursuing more than 50 product leads, including 11 that have proven safe and effective in animals and are now being tested in people. It is expected that within the next five years the public will have access to microbicides.

To learn more about this ground-breaking new product, please consider attending the forum co-sponsored by PPSP, ActionAids, Family Planning Council, SafeGuards, University of Pennsylvania HIV Prevention Research Division, and the Pennsylvania Campaign for Microbicides coming up later this month!

Microbicides: Discovering the Tools to End the Spread of HIV
The University of Pennsylvania
Biomedical Research Auditorium
Friday, September 19th- 8:45-12:00

To RSVP for this event, please contact the External Affairs Department at externalaffairs@ppsp.org or (215) 351.5567.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- National Access to Birth Control Week of Action
September 8th - September 12th
Visibility Event Scheduled for Friday, September 12th
12:30-1:30
Location: TBD
- Volunteer Night Phone Bank at PPSP
Wednesday, September 17th
5:30-8:00
1144 Locust Street
- National Real Sex Ed Week of Action
September 22nd - September 26th
Visibility Event Scheduled for Friday, September 26th
12:30-1:30
Location: TBD

To RSVP for any of these events, please contact the External Affairs Department at externalaffairs@ppsp.org or (215) 351.5567.