

public affairs update

PREVENTION FIRST

Prevention First Act Introduced in New Congress!

The Prevention First Act is a piece of commonsense legislation that has recently been introduced in the US Senate and is gathering co-sponsors in the US House. It is a comprehensive family planning initiative that expands access to preventive health care services and education programs to help reduce unintended pregnancy, prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and improve women's health – all while saving scarce public health dollars.

The bill includes measures to fully fund Title X (the nation's only family planning program), expand access to services through Medicaid, require equity in contraceptive insurance coverage, protect rape survivor's access to emergency contraception (EC) in the emergency room (ER), improve awareness about EC generally, and protect teens' health through medically accurate, real sex education. Each year American teens acquire more than four million STIs and one million teens become pregnant. Teens need accurate, complete information to help them both postpone sexual activity and protect themselves if they become sexually active.

To reach out to your US Representative about supporting the Prevention First Act, contact the Public Affairs Department at (215) 351-5510.

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www.ppsp.org

Action Needed - Reject Abstinence-Only Funding in PA

We have recently learned that Governor Rendell is considering re-applying for abstinence-only funding for Pennsylvania (in addition to federal money the state already receives thanks to special earmarks from Senator Specter). Pennsylvania has rejected Title V abstinence-only funding in the past and we need to ask Governor Rendell to reject this federal funding again.

Please take a moment to call or email Governor Rendell and tell him:
No More Money for Ineffective and Dangerous Abstinence-Only Programs!

- Abstinence-only programs deny teenagers medically accurate information about birth control and preventing sexually transmitted infections.
- Research shows that restricting information places teens at greater risk.
- Abstinence-only programs waste taxpayers' money.

Call the Governor's office at (717) 787-2500.

call 215.351.5510
visit www.ppsp.org

 **Planned Parenthood**[®]
Southeastern Pennsylvania

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Women's Health

Recently, we witnessed a major breakthrough in women's health when the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the HPV vaccine (Merck's Gardasil), which offers protection against the human papillomavirus—the cause of cervical cancer and genital warts. Cervical cancer remains the sixth most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States and second most common form of cancer among women worldwide. Each year, 10,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, resulting in nearly 4,000 deaths.

This vaccine has the enormous potential to greatly reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in this country. For Planned Parenthood, of course, the most critical next step is ensuring that all women—regardless of income—have adequate access to the vaccine.

Comprehensive preventive health care is a cornerstone of Planned Parenthood's mission. Did you know that 1 in 3 women get heart disease? Did you know that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women and men? The good news is that heart disease can largely be prevented. On February 7, PPSP hosted a speaker from the American Heart Association to educate us about cardiovascular disease and the "Go Red for Women" campaign. Stay tuned for more on women's health.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Planned Parenthood Day of Action: Prevention First!
City Hall (S. Broad St. between City Hall and Chestnut Street)
Tuesday, February 13th - 12:00-1:00pm
- Public Affairs Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street
Saturday, February 17th - 10:00am-4:00pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street
Wednesday, February 21st - 5:00-7:30pm
- Cocktails for a Cause
Tuesday, March 20th - 5:00-8:00pm
Crescent City: 900 South Street / Philadelphia

To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or (215) 351-5585.