

# public affairs update

## EC in the ER bill moves forward in PA!

On May 29, Pennsylvania House Bill 288, entitled the Sexual Assault Victim Emergency Treatment Act, had a hearing before the Health and Human Services Committee. A committee vote on this bill is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6.

This legislation calls for all Pennsylvania hospitals to adopt the nationally recognized medical standard of care for treating rape victims, including information on and access to emergency contraception (EC) for victims of sexual assault.

EC is a safe, effective way for women to prevent pregnancy after a sexual assault and avoid the additional trauma of an unintended pregnancy. But, EC is time-sensitive – the sooner it is taken, the better it works.

Currently over half of hospitals across Pennsylvania do not provide information to sexual assault victims about EC and many do not provide EC to sexual assault victims *even if they ask for it*.

Basic medicine and compassion require that all emergency rooms provide access to and information about EC to rape survivors.

Please call your State Representative and urge them to support and co-sponsor HB 288! For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Department at (215) 351-5510.

## "Speaking of Sex" visits Philadelphia

"Speaking of Sex" is coming to Philadelphia! This is Planned Parenthood of Western Washington's program that takes a fun yet unflinching look at sexuality and its important role in our life and relationships.

PPWW is filming a cross-country video podcast series that takes an educational and explorative view of the diverse aspects of sexuality across America. PPSP has been selected as one of the affiliate stops on this road trip!

The interviews and adventures will be edited into a 12-15 episode series that will be posted online beginning in the summer of 2007.

call 215.351.5510  
visit [www.ppsp.org](http://www.ppsp.org)

 Planned Parenthood®  
Southeastern Pennsylvania

# public affairs update, cont.

## Birth control advances

- On May 22, the FDA approved Lybrel, the only birth control pill designed to be taken daily without placebo reminder pills, 365 days a year. When used consistently and correctly, Lybrel completely suppresses the menstrual cycle and is up to 99.7% effective at preventing unintended pregnancy.

Delaying or suppressing periods is safe and can benefit women who experience cramps, headaches, or other menstrual-related discomforts. The addition of Lybrel to the birth control market provides women with an exciting new, safe and effective contraceptive option.

- On May 28, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced a new government program that will provide women with access to low-cost, oral contraceptives at 10,000 pharmacies across the country. Under the new program, the price for a year's supply of birth control pills would be \$2.40.

Brazil already provides free condoms and birth control pills at government pharmacies. This program aims to sharply decrease unwanted pregnancies in Latin America's largest nation and gives poor Brazilians the same right to plan children as the wealthy, said President Silva.

---

## Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Tricky Subjects Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street  
*How to Talk about Reproductive Health & Rights with Confidence*  
Wednesday, June 6th - 5:30-7:30pm
- Cocktails for a Cause | The Federal Abortion Ban: What Now?  
Lucy's Hat Shop, 247 Market Street, Philadelphia  
Wednesday, June 13th - 5:00-8:00pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street  
Wednesday, June 20th - 5:00-7:30pm
- Patient Escort Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street  
Tuesday, June 26th - 6:00-7:30pm
- Clinic Advocacy Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street  
Tuesday, July 10th - 5:30-7:30pm

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