

public affairs update

EC in the ER bill wins vote by 20-7!

On June 6, House Bill 288 was voted out of the Pennsylvania House Health and Human Services Committee. Despite an attempt to table the bill *AND* an amendment that would have allowed hospitals to refuse standard care to rape victims, a comprehensive version of HB 288 succeeded with a vote of 20-7! This is an incredible win!

This legislation would provide information and access to emergency contraception (EC) to all rape victims in all Pennsylvania hospitals. We expect a full House floor vote on this bill in October.

This issue is creating quite a buzz – and it is because YOU have been getting involved – legislators are hearing that there is a demand for common sense solutions to clear issues – such as providing basic medical care to every rape victim in every hospital. Thank you for your help and dedication on this crucial issue!!!

We will continue to keep you updated on how this issue moves forward. Legislation can take several years to get passed, sometimes longer when you have to fight extremist propaganda and make sure that politics do not trump good policy. We need you to stay involved! Please contact the Public Affairs Department at 215.351.5510 or publicaffairs@ppsp.org to help move our EC in the ER campaign forward in Pennsylvania!

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Abortion News in the States: Two Victories

On June 29, New Hampshire Governor John Lynch signed legislation to repeal a state law requiring a parent be notified 48 hours before a minor received an abortion. New Hampshire is the first state to repeal a parental notification measure. The 2003 law never took effect because of a court challenge, and the repeal took effect immediately.

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A three-year investigation started by Phil Kline, when he was Kansas Attorney General, has finally ended with total vindication of Planned Parenthood and victory for women in Kansas! Planned Parenthood attorneys received a letter on June 26 from current Attorney General Paul Morrison stating that no criminal charges would be filed. Morrison said “an objective, unbiased and thorough examination” showed no wrongdoing. He also said he will ask a judge to return the medical records that were obtained by Kline in 2004 through a judicial subpoena.

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Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

International Family Planning Victory

On June 21, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to support international family planning and improve access for women throughout the world in the FY2008 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (HR 2764). This marks the first pro-choice win in the 110th Congress!

This year's Foreign Operations bill included two important provisions to reduce unwanted pregnancies and HIV infection worldwide, by greatly expanding access to contraception, including condoms, and vital HIV and AIDS prevention information.

But, anti-choice Reps. Smith (R-NJ) & Pitts (R-PA) introduced amendments that would have removed these two key global family planning provisions from the bill. The U.S. House rejected these amendments that would have denied information and family planning supplies to women around the globe. This marks an important victory for birth control and REAL prevention information!

Southeastern Pennsylvania Representatives Brady, Fattah, Schwartz and Sestak voted to protect these common-sense prevention measures. However, Representative Gerlach from Montgomery County voted to support the two anti-choice amendments.

For more information on this bill or to reach out to your federal legislators, contact the Public Affairs Department at 215.351.5510 or publicaffairs@ppsp.org.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Brown Bag Lunch at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street
Monday, July 9th - 12:00-1:30pm
Islam and Sexuality, discussion led by Khalida Sethi, PPSP Educator
- Clinic Advocacy Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street
Tuesday, July 10th - 5:30-7:30pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street
Wednesday, July 18th - 5:00-7:30pm

To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5585.