

# public affairs update

## PA State House to Vote on Rape Victim Bill

On October 3, State House Representatives will vote on House Bill 288 – The CARE Act (Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act). This bill ensures rape victims are provided the nationally recognized medical standard of care by requiring that they receive information on and access to emergency contraception (EC) in all Pennsylvania emergency rooms. Survivors of sexual assault deserve immediate access to this safe and effective birth control to prevent pregnancy after an assault.

It has taken years for this legislation to reach a floor vote and the fight is long from over. Amendments have been introduced that destroy the comprehensive medical care the original legislation guarantees victims, such as allowing any hospital to opt-out of giving standard care or forcing a victim to be transported to another facility before she is treated. Rape victims should not be burdened with having to find a hospital that will treat them with comprehensive medical care.

Planned Parenthood calls on the state legislature to pass this crucial bill. Please reach out to your Representative and urge them to support HB 288 without exceptions! For more information, contact the Public Affairs Department at 215.351.5510 or [publicaffairs@ppsp.org](mailto:publicaffairs@ppsp.org).

## CT Catholic Bishops Change Position on EC in the ER Bill

On September 27th, Connecticut Roman Catholic Bishops and Catholic hospitals reversed their long-held position against dispensing emergency contraception (EC) in the emergency room to rape victims. They have agreed to let hospital personnel give the medication to all rape victims, days before a new state law requires it.

In a statement, the Bishops said, "The administration of Plan B pills in this instance cannot be judged to be the commission of an abortion because of such doubt about how Plan B pills and similar drugs work."

The Connecticut legislature passed "EC in the ER" legislation by bipartisan, veto-proof margins in both chambers. The measure passed in the state House of Representatives by 113 to 36 and by 32 to 3 in the Senate. Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell then signed the bill into law.

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

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Southeastern Pennsylvania

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# public affairs update, cont.

## 40 Days of Protest Against Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood calls on organizers of a nationwide, 40-day protest against Planned Parenthood to keep efforts peaceful, citing a long history of violence against health centers from anti-choice organizations.

The inappropriately named "40 Days for Life" campaign began on September 26, in Philadelphia and cities across the country. No patient should have to risk her well-being, safety and privacy when accessing health care.

If these extremists were truly concerned about women and families, they would work with Planned Parenthood to increase access to affordable birth control and comprehensive sex education.

Want to raise your voice against the protesters? You can stand with others in the community against these acts of intimidation and harassment, by join PPSP's Pledge-A-Picket campaign. Visit [www.ppsp.org](http://www.ppsp.org) for more information.

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## Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- Public Affairs Fall Phone Banking  
October 3, 9, 17 at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
October 11 at PPSP, 19 Lindenwold Avenue, Ambler
- Planned Parenthood Day of Action!  
Saturday, October 6 in Montgomery County
- Brown Bag Lunch at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
Tuesday, October 9th - 12:00-1:30pm  
*Breaking the Silence: A Discussion on Ovarian Cancer*
- PROM NITE 2007: *A PPSP Cocktails for a Cause Event*  
Saturday, October 13th | 8pm-12am  
Atwater Kent Museum | Philadelphia
- Patient Escort Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
Wednesday, October 16th - 5:30-7:30pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
Wednesday, October 17th - 5:00-7:30pm
- Clinic Advocacy Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia  
Wednesday, October 24th - 5:30-7:30pm

*To RSVP or for information about these or other PPSP events, contact the Public Affairs*