

public affairs update

Momentum Against a Bad Amendment Delays House Bill 288

House Bill 288 -- The CARE Act -- has been delayed again: but this time, it's for good reason!

Unfortunately, before the expected vote on October 22, legislators drafted an amendment that did not ensure comprehensive care to all victims. The amendment's language implied medical care for victims. Planned Parenthood's concern is implied care does not translate into guaranteed care if it is not ensured by legislative language or established law. This amendment would also set bad precedent.

A working committee has been formed to determine if there is any viable compromise to which both sides can agree.

Thank you for all your hard work on this important issue. It's not over yet! There is a good chance House Bill 288 will be voted on by the end of the month. Please stay tuned! For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Department at 215.351.5510 or publicaffairs@ppsp.org.

Pittsburgh NPR station yanks Planned Parenthood messages

Have you heard us on NPR?!? Ten local Planned Parenthood affiliates are currently sponsoring segments on NPR stations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. After only two days, Pittsburgh public radio station, WDUQ 90.5FM, decided they could not air messages on comprehensive sexuality education, cancer screening, or preventive health care.

WDUQ was ordered by the Duquesne University administration to immediately stop running the underwriting messages from Planned Parenthood. Duquesne University, the station's license holder, decided Planned Parenthood was "*not aligned with our Catholic identity.*" The station returned Planned Parenthood's \$5,000 donation to the station.

Planned Parenthood supporters have sent hundreds of emails to WDUQ, Duquesne University and National Public Radio -- urging the station to reversing their decision to ban important health messages about cancer screening, education and self-esteem and to resume Planned Parenthood underwriting. For more information, contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5510.

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public affairs update, cont.

PA Senators Protect Family Planning!

On October 23, the U.S. Senate passed the FY08 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. This domestic spending bill funds all education, health and labor programs for Fiscal Year 2008. Thanks to Senator Specter (R-PA) and Senator Casey (D-PA), the bill includes crucial prevention measures including a \$16 million increase for the nation's family planning program, Title X, and a \$28 million decrease for dangerous abstinence-only education programs.

The bill was expected to be a battleground for teens' access to reproductive health care. Over 10 amendments were offered to restrict Planned Parenthood, school based health centers and other reproductive health care professionals from providing quality family planning services. Senator Specter worked tirelessly to reach an agreement that removed several anti-choice amendments, clearing the way for final passage. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 75-19.

Additionally, on October 18 the Senate defeated an amendment to restrict federal funding from any health care entity that provides abortion by a vote of 41-52. Senators Specter and Casey voted to protect family planning services. This amendment was an unconscionable attack on Planned Parenthood and other safety net providers who rely on federal funding to provide vital health care services to some of the nation's most vulnerable women, men, and children.

Please thank Senators Specter and Casey for supporting women and families! For more information, contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5510.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- ELECTION DAY: Polls open from 7am to 8pm
Tuesday, November 6th - www.ppspvotes.org for more information
- Public Affairs Phone Banking at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
November 7, 13, 14 from 5:00-8:00pm
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, November 21st - 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.