

public affairs update

Small Steps Forward?

Thanks to you and all of the hard work, we've made significant progress on the issue of ensuring rape survivors receive standard and seamless care in hospital emergency rooms. However, on December 3, after multiple postponements, House Bill 288 was pulled indefinitely. This may sound ironic, but...

Planned Parenthood had concerns that any number of amendments could pass and a significantly weakened bill could be sent over to the Senate. So, while this is less than ideal, it was the best we could have hoped for.

On October 18, state regulations were approved that would ensure information and access to emergency contraception is available in all hospitals without a religious affiliation. The regulations mandate that victims in religiously-affiliated hospitals are offered transportation to receive the medication at another medical facility if the hospital refuses to provide it.

At the moment, it is best to hold off on any further legislative action until the true impact of the regulations can be assessed. When that information becomes public, it will be clear whether further legislative action is needed to ensure every rape survivor receives standard and comprehensive care.

Planned Parenthood and other advocacy organizations believe a victim should receive seamless, comprehensive care on-site in a timely manner -- the regulations are a first step.

World AIDS Day Highlights Importance of Prevention

As the global community marks World AIDS Day on December 1, Planned Parenthood calls on Congress to halt funding for harmful abstinence-only programs that deny teenagers lifesaving information about preventing infections like HIV and AIDS.

World AIDS Day is a powerful reminder of the importance of prevention - and of the fact that young people are being denied the information they need to protect their health. Congress has wasted more than a billion dollars on inaccurate and ineffective abstinence-only programs that do nothing to help young people make responsible decisions about preventing infections like HIV and AIDS.

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 Planned Parenthood®
Southeastern Pennsylvania

public affairs update, cont.

Bill Will Lower High Birth Control Costs

For 20 years, drug companies made it possible for college health clinics and safety-net providers to purchase birth control at low prices in order to pass along the savings to college students and low-income women. Due to a legislative error, the cost of birth control is skyrocketing for college students and low-income women.

The Prevention Through Affordable Access Act, introduced by Rep. Crowley (D-NY) in the House and by Sen. Obama (D-IL) in the Senate would bring down birth control costs at college clinics and safety-net providers by reinstating their ability to purchase low-cost birth control. This bill would increase access to affordable birth control and not cost the taxpayers or government a single dime.

The Prevention Through Affordable Access Act has drawn bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate. Representatives Fattah, Murphy and Schwartz are currently co-sponsors on the House bill. Reps. Brady, Gerlach and Sestak, as well as Senators Specter and Casey have yet to sign on as co-sponsors. Please urge them to co-sponsor this crucial legislation! For more information contact the Public Affairs Department at publicaffairs@ppsp.org or 215.351.5510.

Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars!

- World AIDS Day: December 1, 2007
- Brown Bag Lunch at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, December 10th - 12:00-1:30pm
The Reality of AIDS Today, discussion lead by Ralph Chartier, ActionAIDS
- Volunteer Night at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Wednesday, December 19th - 5:00-7:30pm
- Patient Escort Training at PPSP, 1144 Locust Street, Philadelphia
Monday, January 7th - 5:30-7:00pm
- 35th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade: January 22, 2008

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