



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Planned Parenthood Supporters from across the state Urge Legislators to Put Prevention First

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI — On February 3, Planned Parenthood affiliates in Missouri supporters will be in Jefferson City calling on legislators to co-sponsor the [2009 Prevention First Act](#) sponsored by Senator Joan Bray and Representative Beth Low.

The Prevention First Act will:

- Ensure teens receive comprehensive sex education in public schools;
- Prohibit government interference in a woman's access to contraception;
- Ensure victims of sexual assault are provided information about, and access to, emergency contraception;
- Restore the highly successful, general revenue funded, family planning program that served 30,000 low income women annually with well woman services and saves our state \$4 for every \$1 spent;
- Require pharmacies to dispense prescriptive and over-the-counter birth control without discrimination or delay; and,
- Curb the growing rate of sexually transmitted infections by allowing physicians to prescribe and dispense medications for partners of persons diagnosed with certain sexually transmitted infections.

“As the nation's leading advocate and provider of reproductive health services, Planned Parenthood knows that real sex education and birth control are the best tools for preventing unintended pregnancy and reducing the need for abortion,” said Michelle Trupiano, Lobbyist for Planned Parenthood affiliates in Missouri. “We are calling on our elected officials to put aside their differences, pass prevention legislation like the *Prevention First Act* and put the health of women and families first.”

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Planned Parenthood affiliates in Missouri serve more than 71,000 women, men and teens annually with education, family planning and disease testing and prevention services.