

# The Public Affairs Pulse

## Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

### Planned Parenthood Hosts Affordable Care Act Education & Enrollment Events

The Affordable Care Act launched the new online Marketplace October 1. Despite technological setbacks with the website, Americans have begun to enroll in new health insurance plans online, over the phone, and through paper applications.

Planned Parenthood affiliates statewide are taking part in a multi-layered outreach program to educate the public on the ACA and help people enroll in the Marketplace. We have information available in our health centers for our patients about how they can learn more about the ACA and how to get covered. Field organizers in five target districts of the state are conducting ACA Basics presentations for community partners and organizations.

We are also proud to be a Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization (CDO). This allows us to train certified application counselors (CACs) that are able to help people enroll in the Marketplace directly. Throughout the state, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan (PPAM) CACs will be available to help you answer your questions about new health care laws and walk you through the online enrollment process.

In Grand Rapids, we will be hosting an enrollment event on November 21 at Fountain Street Church from 6–9 p.m.

PPAM field organizers are actively seeking interns and volunteers to work with us as CACs, as well as community organizations who are interested in hosting enrollment events.

For more information on what is available on the new Marketplace, please visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). To join our mailing list for updates on the ACA and how it can help you, including insurance plans working with Planned Parenthood, please visit: <http://www.plannedparenthoodhealthinsurancefacts.org>

If you live in the Grand Rapids area and are looking for more information about the Marketplace, a way to educate your organization, hosting an enrollment event, or becoming a CAC volunteer, please email [dani.vilella@ppmchoice.org](mailto:dani.vilella@ppmchoice.org).

### U.S. Senate Introduces 20-Week Abortion Ban

WASHINGTON — While it has been rumored for months that Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) would introduce a bill to ban abortions nationwide at 20 weeks, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) instead has introduced the bill and will serve as its chief sponsor. This bill is unconstitutional, would criminalize doctors for performing a safe and legal procedure, and would interfere in a woman's ability to make personal decisions about her pregnancy in consultation with her doctor.

The legislation mirrors the version that passed the U.S. House on June 18, 2013. The "Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act" is a harmful measure that would restrict a woman from making a private medical decision with her doctor, impose unconstitutional limits on abortion prior to viability for women across the country, and criminalize doctors seeking to provide constitutionally

protected care. If enacted, this ban would endanger women by limiting a woman's access to abortion even if she learns that the pregnancy poses a threat to her health. The bill includes inadequate and narrow exceptions for instances of rape and incest, but only when first reported to a law enforcement agency, or when the life of the woman is endangered.

Planned Parenthood has been actively educating and meeting with champions, moderates, and new Senators for months in preparation for the bill's introduction and any possible attempts to force a vote on this issue.

To illustrate the real-world impact such a law would have on women, Planned Parenthood is sharing videos in which women tell their powerful, heartbreaking stories of abortion later in pregnancy. The stories are featured on a new page of our website designed to educate supporters about 20-week bans. Visit the page: <http://plannedparenthoodaction.org/issues/abortion-access/20-week-ban>

### Upcoming Opportunities

**Grand Rapids:** Get Covered America ACA Summit, November 16, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. (free with lunch provided)

**Grand Rapids:** Volunteer Night, November 26, 5–7 p.m.

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, please email [dani.vilella@ppmchoice.org](mailto:dani.vilella@ppmchoice.org).