



The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

PPFA Hosts Organizing and Policy Summit

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) just completed another successful conference — the 2012 Organizing and Policy Summit (OPS)! It was a great four-day event attended by more than 300 participants from nearly 45 states. This summit was a perfect opportunity to come together and learn how to strengthen the Planned Parenthood brand, increase awareness in the communities Planned Parenthood health centers serve, and spend time with several members of Congress on the Hill.

There were many fantastic events that took place during OPS including the Maggie Awards. The Maggie Awards are a celebration of excellence in media, with several awards to journalists who have been true champions for sexual and reproductive health. Jeannine Amber, Laura Bassett, Sarah Blustain, Denene Millner, Vivian Siu, and Deanna Zandt were among the award winners and we could not be more excited to celebrate their work! A big shout-out to Joan Walsh, editor at large for *Salon.com* and author, for hosting this spectacular event.

Later that evening, there was an unbelievable turn out for our Sex, Politics, and Cocktails reception at the Newseum. More than 20 members of Congress attended, including Rep. Richard Hanna (R-NY), a true supporter and advocate for women's health.

Also during OPS, the important work Planned Parenthood and partners are doing to prevent breast and cervical cancers was shared with over 100 Hill staff and elected officials during the annual Public Affairs Lobby Day.

Women Take Over!

LANSING — On July 18, women took over the Michigan Capitol. Progressive and women's rights groups from all over Michigan joined forces for a rally and lobby day in Lansing. During the summer months, the House and Senate meet on a limited basis and this event was scheduled to coincide with the return of both chambers to Lansing after a brief hiatus.

On June 12, 450 people protested at the Capitol demanding that the House drop the dangerous and restrictive omnibus package House Bills 5711-5713. On June 18, 3,000 people gathered for a reading of the *Vagina Monologues* by pro-choice female elected officials. Organized by the newly formed Women's Power Assembly and supported by Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, NOW, and others, Women Take over the Capitol was designed to show lawmakers that women are still angry over attacks on women's rights, most specifically fights over House Bills 5711-5713.

MI Senate Committee Holds Hearing on HB 5711

LANSING — On July 26, with only 19 hours advance notice, the Senate Judiciary Committee placed

House Bill 5711, otherwise known as the Omnibus Bill, on their agenda.

Twelve people, including individual citizens and representatives of various pro-choice organizations, testified on the dangerous and misleading nature of House Bill 5711 (HB 5711). The presence in the room was overwhelmingly against the bill, with double the number of pro-choice testimonials and opposition cards than those in support of this legislation.

HB 5711 is a part of the dangerous omnibus group of bills introduced in the Michigan House in May. It introduces extreme restrictions for abortion providers as well as creates new guidelines criminalizing coercing women to have an abortion.

The bills are misleading in the sense that the supporters of this legislation portray it as "protecting women," when in fact, it simply makes abortion harder to provide and procure.

The bill will now move to the Senate for a floor vote. Please contact your Senator and tell him or her to vote NO on HB 5711! For more information, please visit: <http://miplannedparenthood.org/page/war-women-michigan>

Volunteer Opportunities

PPWNM is seeking volunteers for our Get Out the Vote campaign. If you are interested, please e-mail: publicaffairs@ppwnm.org.

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Sources: PPAM, PPFA