

The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

YOPI in MI

ANN ARBOR, MI — On August 24-26, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan (PPAM) joined forces to host a training based on the nationally recognized programming of the New Organizing Institute (NOI). The Youth Organizing and Policy Summit (YOPI) is an intensive, three-day training for youth and college students. Nearly 100 students and young people travelled to Ann Arbor, MI from nine states to participate in the training.

The YOPI curriculum consists of a series of trainings in a small group setting that teach important and substantial skills including building goals & strategies, storytelling, volunteer recruitment, and leadership styles.

The conference opened with a formal dinner with MI Rep. Lisa Brown, silenced on the House floor in June for saying “vagina,” and *Twilight* actress Elizabeth Reaser speaking to the students about the importance of continuing to fight for reproductive rights.

The second day of YOPI was an intense series of skill building sessions designed to leave everyone with a concrete plan of action to take back to their communities. The final day was reflective, encouraging the small groups to become one large group and present their plans, share their thoughts and stories, and celebrate the relationships formed during YOPI.

Students For Choice Training

ANN ARBOR, MI — PPAM hosted the 3rd annual Students For Choice (SFC) retreat on August 23, designed for SFC college campus group leaders to learn skills needed to run sustainable clubs and groups.

This year’s program included presentations by SFC leaders from universities around the state. Including “Successful Event Planning,” “Leadership Styles and Transitions,” “Teaching Sex Ed,” and “How to Hold Successful Meetings.”

PPAM staff provided a legislative update including the newest information on the HB 5711 Abortion Omnibus bill fight in the Michigan Legislature. They also provided an action calendar for 2013 for SFC leaders to begin planning for activities and campaigns after this year’s election season has ended.

Interactive activities throughout the day included “I Am An Expert” teaching that we are all experts on something and we need to own our experience and our voice; “20 Steps to Proper Condom Use” a puzzle game in which participants must try to put all of the steps to proper condom use in the correct chronological order.

Rosemary Linares from Cross Movement Social Justice Consulting, L3C, presented on “Visualizing Change: A Social Justice Exercise” which involved students choosing an image from a series of pictures and explaining how this represents the legacy that they want to leave on their campus and in their SFC groups.

Senate Gallery Watch and 5711 Update

LANSING, MI — On August 15, Planned Parenthood supporters descended on the Capitol for the eighth time in eight weeks to protest House Bill 5711. The bill was set for a Senate vote as people gathered in the Senate gallery in pink shirts, watching the session. The Senate dropped the vote from its agenda for the day. They are scheduled to take up the bill after they return to regular legislative session beginning September 11.

Planned Parenthood and other social justice organizations from around the state will be back at the Capitol on September 12 to remind the Senate that Michigan citizens will not tolerate passage of this restrictive and dangerous bill.

On July 26, with only 19 hours advance notice, the Senate Judiciary Committee placed HB 5711 on its agenda and passed the bill.

The bill has now moved to the full Senate for a vote and the 20 week abortion ban, removed during House amendment, has been added back into the bill language.

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>

If you are interested in joining Planned Parenthood for rallies or other volunteer opportunities, please contact publicaffairs@ppwnm.org.

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