

The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

SCOTUS Upholds Affordable Care Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the Affordable Care Act will have a “profound and concrete impact” on millions of people’s lives, Planned Parenthood said after the June 28 ruling, calling the Affordable Care Act “the greatest advance in women’s health in a generation.”

“Affordable, quality health care will now be available to millions of women who had no coverage or inadequate coverage before. Today, we are closer than ever to realizing the promise of health care for all. This is a victory for the American people, and we thank President Obama and the members of Congress who passed the Affordable Care Act,” said Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

“At Planned Parenthood, we know how important this law and this decision are for women and families, because we see the need for affordable health care every day. Women who come into Planned Parenthood health centers often struggle to balance paying for birth control and health services with paying for textbooks, groceries, or gas for the car. The Affordable Care Act will make those decisions easier for women across the country,” Richards said.

Key benefits of the Affordable Care Act will have an impact on millions of American’s lives:

- More than 45 million women have already received coverage for preventive health screenings at no cost since August 2010.
- 3.1 million young adults have

already been able to stay on their parents’ insurance. In the next year, millions more who would have otherwise lost coverage will continue to be insured under their parents’ plan.

- Women are guaranteed direct access to OB/GYN providers without a referral.
- Starting in August, birth control will be available without co-pays or deductibles.

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, 17 million women will be newly insured.

Michigan Fights Back

LANSING — Nearly 400 supporters of women’s health swarmed the Michigan capitol in Lansing on June 12 to protest a sweeping House omnibus bill (HB 5711, 5712, and 5713) that would all but eliminate access to abortion care in Michigan.

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan (PPAM) Director of Community and Media Relations Desiree Cooper reported that citizens were denied the opportunity to comment on the bill when it came before the House Health Policy Committee.

“Committee chair Gail Haines shut down the hearing on June 7 rather than take testimony from groups like the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, and the Michigan State Medical Society,” Cooper said.

“Politicians in Lansing thought they would be able to ramrod this bill without a peep from women, but they were wrong,” said Lori Lamerand, chair of PPAM. “Today the legislature got a civics lesson — women care

about their access to basic reproductive health care, and they are watching what happens in Lansing.”

Supporters of women’s health protested against the bill, which had been pushed through with unprecedented speed and without public comment. The House tabled the vote as protesters crammed the gallery and others pounded on the rotunda banister chanting “This is our House!” and “We will remember in November!”



PPAM returned to the capitol on June 13 with 10,000 postcards signed by Michiganders who support Planned Parenthood and women’s health care.

The House passed the bills 70-39, with six Democrats voting with the majority.

On June 18, Board of Advocates member Eve Ensler staged a production of *The Vagina Monologues* on the capitol steps, and thousands of supporters showed up. PPAM asked the thousands gathered to call the governor to urge him to stop the war on women.

“They’ve tried every way imaginable to silence us,” Lamerand said, “But we’re not going away.”

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Sources: PPAM, PPFA