



Monday *MONITOR*

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SB459—A BILL TO CRIMINALIZE PREGNANT WOMEN—HEARD IN SENATE JUDICIARY

SB459, sponsored by **Sen. Brad Lager** (R-Savannah), was heard last Monday night in Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill would allow for criminal prosecution of a pregnant woman if she is unable to overcome an addiction to a controlled substance before carrying her pregnancy to full term. As in prior years when similar bills have been filed, there is only the support of the sponsor, but united opposition from a broad range advocates. This year, Dan Viets, a criminal defense attorney, the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Partnership for Children, the ACLU, the Catholic Conference, and Planned Parenthood affiliates in Missouri testified in opposition.

While some fear passage of such a bill could lead a woman to seek an abortion—coerced by state public policy—rather than face prison, advocates universally agree that providing prenatal care and other support to the woman will ensure a better birth outcome for the woman and baby.

National Advocates for Pregnant Women—www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org—provides important, evidence-based research in support of a public health approach over a jail cell.

SEN. APPROPRIATIONS USES ECONOMIC RECOVERY \$\$ TO RESTORE KEY SERVICES

The Senate Appropriations Committee began “mark-up” of the Budget Bills last week. Unlike in the House, the committee is using federal economic recovery funding to restore critical services to the Health, Mental Health and Social Services Budgets.

Highlights [from the Missouri Budget Project]:

- **Medicaid for Parents to 50% FPL:** The Senate Appropriations Committee included coverage for 34,000 low income parents up to 50% of the federal poverty level in Medicaid using Hospital FRA funding; the House did not. This line item will be determined in Conference Committee.
- **Children’s Health Care:** SCHIP Premiums & Outreach funding was left open for further discussion. The Governor recommended using \$22.7 million in state general revenue to support access to health care for 27,000 children by eliminating premiums for children in families between 150% – 225% FPL, and reducing premiums for children in families with incomes from 226% – 300% FPL. In addition, a portion of the funding would be utilized to conduct outreach to enroll children who are currently eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, but who remain uninsured.

The Senate Appropriations Committee will continue its work on budget items that have not been finalized yet when it meets today at 10 am in Senate Committee Room 2. After the Senate Appropriations committee completes the budget, the bills will be voted on by the full Senate and move to Conference Committee with the House to resolve differences.

LOBBY DAY FOR WOMEN’S AND TEEN HEALTH 2009—TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Watch for advocates for reproductive health and comprehensive sex education in the Capitol on Tuesday, April 28th. These advocates will be letting their elected representatives know how important access to the continuum of reproductive health care is to women and families across Missouri.

GET YOURSELF TESTED—GYT09!

Did you know that half of all sexually active people will have a STD by age 25?

Planned Parenthood is responding to this health care crisis during April by teaming up with MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and other partners nationwide to tell you — yes, you — that it's time to Get Yourself Tested! The harsh reality is that about 19 million new cases of STDs occur every year in the U.S. That means that about every two or three seconds, another person gets an STD. Even worse, Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HIV often have no symptoms, so many of those who are infected don't know it and most new infections will go undiagnosed.

- Parents can check out our page on [talking to your kids about sex and STDs](#).
- Teens can check out our information on [Teenwire.com](#)
- Or go directly to the campaign pages at [www.gyt09.org](#) to find a testing location near you.

[from [www.plannedparenthood.org](#)]

PEDRO WATCH PARTIES ACROSS THE STATE KICK-OFF GYT09 NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Planned Parenthood supporters gathered in Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia, St. Louis, Rolla, Kirksville and other locations across the state—in homes, bars, and clinics—to watch the docu-drama “Pedro” and to kick-off GYT09, the campaign to increase awareness of sexually transmitted infections and to reduce the stigma of getting tested. MTV’s *Pedro* celebrates the life of Pedro Zamora, a young man who found out he was HIV positive at 17, and dedicated the rest of his life to raising awareness about the disease in his community.

For those that missed the premiere, it is streamed on MTV at [www.mtv.com](#).

NEW CAMPAIGN TARGETS TEENS AND STDS

By Blythe Bernhard. ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH. Thursday, Apr. 02 2009

The ongoing battle against sexually transmitted diseases gets a boost today with the launch of a new campaign aimed at teenagers.

"Get Yourself Tested" is a collaboration between Planned Parenthood, MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The campaign involves educational programming on MTV, a website with information on the diseases and a texting service to find a local testing center. Planning on the campaign started last year after the CDC reported that one in four teenage girls has an STD.

"These are preventable diseases, there's no reason to have the rates that we have," said Mary Kogut, vice president of patient services at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region. St. Louis consistently leads the country in gonorrhea and chlamydia rates and also ranks high for rates of HIV. About two-thirds of the city's STDs are diagnosed in people ages 15 to 24. As part of the new campaign, Planned Parenthood of St. Louis will offer free or low-cost STD testing for the month of April.

"The more we get the word out, the more they're informed, we have a better chance of reaching the folks who need treatment," Kogut said.

In 2007, doctors reported 742 cases of gonorrhea and 1,265 cases of chlamydia for every 100,000 St. Louis city residents, for a total of nearly 7,000 new diagnoses of both STDs. The historically high rates of STDs can be attributed to a lack of access to health care and public awareness, local health officials said. It is thought that less than half the people who contract gonorrhea and chlamydia are diagnosed and treated. The diseases, which often have no symptoms, disproportionately affect women and African-Americans. Without treatment, the diseases can lead to infertility.

Planned Parenthood also plans to launch a sexual health education program for parents in the coming months. Real Life, Real Talk involves a 90-minute class held at churches and schools to help parents get comfortable talking to their kids about sex.

"Kids do better in homes where they can talk to their parents about these issues," said Paula Gianino, CEO of Planned Parenthood in St. Louis.