



Monday *MONITOR*

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Contact: Michelle Trupiano – 573.424.8717 (cell)

SEX ED SENT BACK; BIASED COUNSELING MOVES FORWARD

The Rules Committee sent **HB 716** (Davis), the Sex Mis-Education bill, back to the Special Committee on Family Services. The Committee is scheduled to meet upon afternoon adjournment on Tuesday for an Executive Session where it will likely reconsider the bill. The substance of this bill is now rolled into HCS HB1055 (Sander), the Alternatives to Abortion (except-family-planning) bill, with a minor change that allows school districts to either teach comprehensive, medically and factually accurate information on contraception, OR to follow abstinence-only guidelines and talk only about contraceptive failure rates. If the committee amends HB716, it is unclear what impact that will have on the omnibus bill language moving forward. **HB 821** (Onder) was voted 'do pass' in Rules and is now on the House Perfection Calendar awaiting floor debate. This bill requires physicians who perform the very few abortions after 20 weeks gestation – which are typically therapeutic abortions of wanted pregnancies that have a fatal anomaly, or women forced to delay the procedure due to legislative hoops imposed in the past few years – to give the women a scientifically questionable statement about fetal development that does not have the imprimatur of the mainstream medical community.

HPV BILL HEARD IN SENATE SENIORS, FAMILIES & PUBLIC HEALTH

SB 514 (Justus) was heard in committee on Tuesday. The original bill would add to the list of required vaccines for girls entering middle school the HPV vaccine, which protects against cervical cancer and was approved by the FDA to be administered to females ages 9-26. A substitute offered in committee amends the bill to simply provide information about the vaccine to the parents of girls entering middle school. The vaccine protects against two of the most virulent strains of human papilloma virus (HPV) that cause more than 70% of cervical cancers. SB 514 would also require health insurance companies to provide coverage for HPV immunizations for females between the ages of 11 and 21.

“MO HEALTHNET” PERFECTED IN SENATE – WITH FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

SS SCS SB 577 (Shields), the bill to reform Missouri Medicaid, was perfected on Wednesday. After Fiscal Oversight, it will be third read and sent to the House. Sen. Kennedy offered an amendment to provide family planning services to women 18 and older at 185% of poverty or less, which was approved by voice vote. This positive step has been demonstrated to save significant money in states that have passed similar expansions. Estimates suggest that Missouri could save \$32 million annually. However, SB577 still does not address services for those cut in 2005, or the 700,000 still uninsured in Missouri. In addition, it would alter health care delivery in ways that would interfere in the doctor/patient relationship, make vulnerable Missourians earn health care and create unnecessary bureaucracy.

STATUS OF MOVING BILLS

HB 412 (Emery) Pharmacy Denial – #14 on House Perfection Calendar

HB 716 (Davis) Sex Mis-Education – sent back to Committee of origin from Rules

HB 821 (Onder) Biased Counseling/Fetal Anesthesia – #47 on House Perfection Calendar

HCS HB 1055 (Sander) Omnibus Anti-Choice Bill – Hearing in Rules Committee Tuesday

SCS SB 370, 375 & 432 (Scott) Omnibus Anti-Choice Bill – Informal Senate Perfection Calendar

SS SCS SB 577 (Shields) No HealthNet – Fiscal Oversight, Senate Third Reading Calendar

A SECOND ANTI-SEX ED, ANTI-CHOICE BUSH APPOINTEE STEPS DOWN

NEW YORK CITY, April 2 — Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) called on the Bush administration to replace HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families **Wade Horn**, who resigned Monday, with a true advocate for the health of teens, women and families.

“Horn’s political appointment was a classic case of the Bush administration prizing ideology over public health. Horn should be replaced with a public health expert who’s a true advocate for teens, women and families,” PPFA President Cecile Richards said. “Approximately 750,000 U.S. teens will become pregnant this year, and nearly four million of them will contract a sexually transmitted infection — in part because they don’t have access to the information they need to make responsible decisions about their health.”

Horn’s resignation comes just days after **Eric Keroack**, Bush’s appointee to run our nation’s family planning program, stepped down.

“The Bush administration should be doing everything it can to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in America through commonsense measures, such as comprehensive sex education and affordable contraception,” Richards added.

Richards called on Congress to pass the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, introduced two weeks ago. The bipartisan REAL Act would create a grant program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services that would fund comprehensive sex education programs in schools nationwide. Currently, no federal program is dedicated to supporting comprehensive sex education, despite the proven effectiveness of such programs. It is estimated that only 10 percent of all American school districts have a sexuality education policy that is comprehensive and includes information about contraception and safer sex in addition to abstinence.

President Bush recently requested a \$28 million increase in the FY’08 budget for abstinence-only programs, which have been widely criticized for denying teens life-saving information about how to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Since 1996, Congress has committed more than \$1 billion for federal and state abstinence-only programs.

WAL-MART CRIES ‘UNCLE’ – ANOTHER VICTORY FOR WOMEN’S HEALTH!

NEW YORK CITY, April 4 — In response to Planned Parenthood’s massive grassroots advocacy campaign “Fill My Pills Now,” Wal-Mart notified Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) today that it has revised its nationwide corporate policy with regard to emergency contraception. The new Wal-Mart policy ensures customers “will now receive their prescriptions or OTC products in store without discrimination (no harassment or lectures),” “without delay,” and “without judgment,” according to the Planned Parenthood survey that Wal-Mart returned to PPFA today.

“This is a huge victory for women’s health and for Planned Parenthood’s campaign for accessible birth control,” PPFA President Cecile Richards said. “We’re pleased that Wal-Mart has changed its policy to meet the real-life health care needs of women and families. Congratulations to our activists and supporters, especially our Pill Patrol, for making sure pharmacies respect and protect women’s health.

“With its new and improved policy, Wal-Mart joins other women-friendly pharmacy chains like CVS, Eckerd and Medicine Shoppe, RiteAid and Walgreens,” Richards said. “Our Planned Parenthood Pill Patrol will continue to focus on getting more major retailers to follow in Wal-Mart’s footsteps — including Target, Giant, Safeway and Winn Dixie, which have a long way to go.”

Women can always turn to Planned Parenthood for birth control — including emergency contraception — and all their reproductive health care needs. Last year, Planned Parenthood provided more than one million women with emergency contraception kits.

Birth control refusals are a disturbing trend that jeopardizes women’s health and safety.

For more information on pharmacy refusals, including a state-by-state guide to major pharmacy chains and their policies regarding access to birth control, please visit www.fillmypillsnow.org and www.plannedparenthood.org.