



# Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, February 1, 2010

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## **ANTI-ABORTION TERRORIST SCOTT ROEDER GUILTY OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER**

***January 29, 2010 | Statement by Peter B. Brownlie, President & CEO, PPKM***

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri is grateful for the jury's decision in Sedgwick County to convict Scott Roeder of first-degree murder in the assassination of Dr. George Tiller. We are satisfied the criminal justice system in Kansas has worked, as it always has in abortion matters.

There's no joy in this outcome. On May 31st last year, Kansas, and America, lost a compassionate and courageous physician. Jeanne Tiller and her children and grandchildren lost a loving husband, father and grandfather. And women across the world lost a bold and irreplaceable advocate for their health and reproductive rights.

Mr. Roeder's conviction represents a victory for the rule of law and a clear message that domestic terrorists will be held accountable in Kansas as elsewhere in America. Roeder's action was the worst and most recent of many acts of terrorism aimed at physicians and health centers in Kansas in the last 20 years. It's important to note since 1991, dozens of anti-abortion activists have been convicted of crimes in Kansas — and they are the only people who've ever been convicted of abortion-related crimes.

All of us at Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri renew our support for and condolences to Dr. Tiller's family and wish them peace and safety in the wake of the trial and conviction.

***January 29, 2010 | From Statement by Cecile Richards, President of PPFAJ***

"While today's ruling ensures the person responsible for Dr. Tiller's murder is held accountable, the tremendous loss of Dr. Tiller will continue to be felt for years to come. For countless women facing dire medical circumstances as a result of complicated life-threatening pregnancies, Dr. Tiller was an invaluable medical provider. His death was an enormous loss for his family and for members of his church, where he was shot to death, as well as for the patients across America who relied on him, his dedicated staff, and the medical community.

"In the face of continual harassment and intimidation by abortion opponents through much of his career, Dr. Tiller showed unparalleled courage and remained steadfastly committed to providing compassionate care to women and families. Our thoughts are with the Tiller family during this difficult time, and we hope that they are comforted by the fact that his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched."

## **"TENTH AMENDMENT" CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FILED**

**Representative Brian Nieves (R-98), Representative Cynthia Davis (R-19)** and 51 of their colleagues, filed [HJR 88](#), a constitutional amendment to guarantee tenth (US Constitutional) amendment state sovereignty from, among other things, "Federal actions legalizing or funding abortions, or the destruction of any embryo containing human DNA from the zygote stage onward through all stages of development." If passed, the constitutional amendment would go on the November ballot.

## **DESPITE THREATS OF BAD WEATHER, ROE V WADE EVENT IN SPRINGFIELD IS SUCCESS**

On Wednesday, PPSLR of Southwest Missouri and its supporters celebrated 37 years of reproductive rights with Drury University students performing excerpts from Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues*. Local poets and slam artists also performed original works, including a brand new piece from two-time Women of the World Poetry Slam championship performer, Michelle Nimmo. The work of our tireless activists was celebrated by a screening of our own "Don't Throw Women Under the Bus: Stop Stupak Tour," and the presentation for "Best Display of Public Outrage & Activism" and the Champion for Choice awards.

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**2010 Choice Lobby Days: Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>; & Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## **NEW STUDY SHOWS TEEN PREGNANCY ON THE RISE NATIONALLY**

***From PPFA statement, January 26, 2010***

Last week, the [Guttmacher Institute](#) released a new study showing the U.S. teen pregnancy rate rose three percent in 2006 — the first rise in more than a decade. Among the report findings:

- The teen birth rate rose four percent from 2005 to 2006.
- The teen abortion rate rose one percent from 2005 to 2006.
- Among black teens, the pregnancy rate declined by 45 percent (from 223.8 per 1,000 in 1990 to 122.7 in 2005), before increasing to 126.3 in 2006.
- Among Hispanic teens, the pregnancy rate decreased by 26 percent (from 169.7 per 1,000 in 1992 to 124.9 in 2005), before rising to 126.6 in 2006.
- Among non-Hispanic white teens, the pregnancy rate declined 50 percent (from 86.6 per 1,000 in 1990 to 43.3 per 1,000 in 2005), before increasing to 44.0 in 2006.

This new study makes clear what Planned Parenthood has known for years — abstinence-only sex education for teenagers does not work. This study should serve as a wake-up call to anyone who still believes that teenagers aren't sexually active or that abstinence-only programs curb the rate of teen pregnancy. Now more than ever, we must ensure that our teenagers receive medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education that gives them the tools to make responsible decisions about their health.

Unfortunately, after a decade of progress in reducing the rate of teenage pregnancy, we are witnessing a substantial increase in the number of teens who are getting pregnant. In addition, we are facing a crisis in the alarming rate of sexually transmitted infections among our young people. It is unacceptable that one out of every two sexually active young people has a sexually transmitted infection by the age of 25.

## **STUDY: PREGNANCY COERCION, INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND UNINTENDED PREGNANCY**

***January 26, 2010 | Family Violence Prevention Fund [excerpted]***

SAN FRANCISCO - A new study sheds light on a little-recognized form of abuse in which men use coercion and birth control sabotage to cause their partners to become pregnant against their wills. The study, published in the January issue of *Contraception*, finds this kind of reproductive control to be especially common in relationships in which women experience physical or sexual partner violence.

"Pregnancy Coercion, Intimate Partner Violence and Unintended Pregnancy" is the first quantitative examination of the relationship between intimate partner violence, reproductive coercion and unintended pregnancy. It finds that young women and teenage girls often face efforts by male partners to sabotage their birth control or coerce or pressure them to become pregnant - including by damaging condoms and destroying contraceptives. [...] among women who experienced both reproductive coercion and partner violence, the risk of unintended pregnancy doubled.

From August 2008 to March 2009, researchers worked at five reproductive health clinics in Northern California, querying some 1,300 English- and Spanish-speaking 16- to 29-year-old women who agreed to respond to a survey about their experiences. They were asked about birth-control sabotage, pregnancy coercion and intimate partner violence. Approximately one in five young women said they experienced pregnancy coercion and 15 percent said they experienced birth control sabotage. Fifty-three percent of respondents said they had experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner. Thirty-five percent of the women who reported partner violence also reported either pregnancy coercion or birth control sabotage.

[...]

"This study highlights an under-recognized phenomenon where male partners actively attempt to promote pregnancy against the will of their female partners," said lead study author Elizabeth Miller, an assistant professor of pediatrics in the UC Davis School of Medicine and a practitioner at UC Davis Children's Hospital. "Not only is reproductive coercion associated with violence from male partners, but when women report experiencing both reproductive coercion and partner violence, the risk for unintended pregnancy increases significantly."

"We have known about the association between partner violence and unintended pregnancy for many years," said Jay Silverman, the study's senior author and an associate professor of society, human development and health in the Harvard School of Public Health. "What this study shows is that reproductive coercion likely explains why unintended pregnancies are far more common among abused women and teens."

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