



# Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, February 15, 2010

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## **THREE BILLS HEARD IN HOUSE COMMITTEES**

[HB 1365](#) (Emery, R-126), the **Pharmacy Denial** bill, and [HB 1546](#) (Harris, D-110), the **(Even More) Abortion Reporting** bill, were heard in House Children and Families Committee on Wednesday. The sponsor of HB 1365 again railed against mandated stocking of Plan B which is NOT required at any pharmacy nor is there a proposal to do so. The bill confuses Plan B birth control with “RU486” – an abortifacient. Plan B is a federally approved contraceptive. This bill would protect any pharmacy employee who refuses to even ring up a sale of Plan B. The MO Pharmacy Association, Rep. Sater (a pharmacist), Joe Ortwerth, Kerry Messer, MO-RTL, Campaign Life MO, and MCC testified in support. NARAL, ACLU-EM, Faith Aloud, and PPMO testified in opposition.

The sponsor of **HB 1546** admitted that information from women about why they seek an abortion would just ‘verify what we already know’...but she refused to agree to drop attempts at more restrictions if the information collected contradicted the need. There was significant confusion regarding how the information would be collected or why anti-abortion advocates would trust a source they constantly vilify. Sam Lee, speaking in support, distributed demographic/health history forms that are used by PPSLR’s health center, not the abortion facility.

## **EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY HEARD IN HOUSE HEALTH POLICY**

[HB 1375](#) (Cooper, R-155), the **Expedited Partner Therapy** bill was heard in House Health Care Committee, chaired by the bill sponsor. This solid, public health bill was unopposed. MO-DHSS, MFHC, and MSMA spoke in support.

## **FOUR RESTRICTIVE BILLS REFERRED TO HOUSE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

[HB 1725](#) (Pollock, R-146), the **Abortion Insurance Ban** bill, [HB 1238](#) (Davis, R-19), the **Abortion Restriction** bill, and [HB 1327](#) (Davis, R-19) & [HB 2000](#) (Pratt, R-55), two **Abortion Restriction** bills that include ‘the crime of coercion of an abortion’ were referred to House Children and Families Committee. We anticipate they may be heard on Wednesday.

## **FOUR ADDITIONAL BILLS FILED; THREE ARE PRO-ACTIVE**

[HB 2145](#) (Gatschenberger, R-13) is another **Abortion Insurance Ban** bill. On the bright side, Rep. Chris Kelly (D-24) filed a companion **Cervical Cancer Immunization** bill [HB 2080](#), Rep. Ted Hoskins (D-80) filed [HB 1523](#) (which will be heard Tuesday evening) to increase education and awareness about **Uterine Fibroids**, and Rep. James Morris (D-) filed [HB 2065](#), a **Prostate Cancer** education bill.

## **CERVICAL CANCER IMMUNIZATION BILL MOVING**

[SB 627](#), the Cervical Cancer Immunization bill filed by Sen. Justus (D-10) was voted ‘Do Pass’ from committee.

## **ABORTION RESTRICTION BILLS TO BE HEARD IN JUDICIARY**

[SB 792](#) (Dempsey, R-23), **Additional Reporting Requirements** and [SB 793](#) (Mayer, R-25), **Abortion Restrictions**, are both scheduled for a hearing in Senate Judiciary this evening at 6pm. PPMO anticipates that Sen. Mayer’s bill will be the one to watch. Planned Parenthood has repeatedly—and unsuccessfully—invited Senator Mayer to tour Reproductive Health Services, the St. Louis abortion facility, so that he could learn first-hand about the current, comprehensive informed consent and counseling process in place.

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***Celebrating National Condom Week—February 14 to February 28***

## **WOMEN OF COLOR AND THE ANTI-CHOICE FOCUS ON EUGENICS**

*Pamela Merritt, RHRealityCheck.org, Feb 12 2010*

Just days before the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, a fellow activist sent me a link to a video posted by the anti-choice group [Bound for Life](#) [1] [...] The angle – that reproductive health care providers are organized to increase abortions by people of color in a plot to commit genocide for profit – has been in play by anti-choicers for years. That theory has been, is now, and will always be insultingly paternalistic in its assumptions about women of color seeking reproductive health care. The allegation is also picking up steam this Black History Month.

The first time I watched the video I was struck by the theories promoted through it – that communities of color are tragically ignorant of some long standing genocidal plot and desperately need organizations like Bound for Life to come to educate us, that the size of a reproductive health care clinic is in some way connected to its intended scale of abortion services and that the location of that clinic (in communities of color) is proof of some long standing genocidal plot. Bound for Life isn't alone in putting forth these arguments. Anti-choice groups recently [put up billboards in Georgia claiming that Black children are an endangered species](#) [3] and other organizations, like [The Radiance Foundation](#) [4], target religious people of color with the same anti-choice message; their stated goal being to illuminate, educate and motivate their audience. [...]

In Missouri, where young people are often denied access to medically accurate comprehensive sex education in public schools, rumors can often be taken as fact [...] In the absence of knowledge, dangerously inaccurate information reigns supreme without challenge or correction.

It is in that knowledge-vacuum that the black genocide conspiracy hopes to set up shop [...]

As a woman of color and a reproductive justice activist, I am appalled each time I hear the black genocide rap. Quotes by Margaret Sanger are tossed out as if she were a prophet, as if reproductive choice a religion, and as if pro-choice activists were fundamentalists bent on staying true to Sanger's words as a person of fundamentalist faith would to the word of God. In reality, Margaret Sanger was a person whose work paved the way for legal access to contraceptives in this country. Sanger's personal beliefs on eugenics were and are wrong and do not hold any place in the mission of reproductive justice or reproductive health care providers. We do not associate the Ford Motor Company with anti-semitism, [despite the well documented history of its founder Henry Ford in collaborating with Nazis](#) [5] and we should not associate contemporary reproductive health care providers or the reproductive justice movement with eugenics because of some views expressed by Margaret Sanger.

But the truth has little to do with the black genocide scare tactic. The truth is that reproductive health care providers open clinics to provide access to the full range of reproductive health care services in communities that need safe and affordable health care. Those services include yearly cancer screenings, treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, education on how to prevent sexually transmitted infections, education on how to prevent unplanned pregnancy and abortion counseling and services.

The truth is:

- [Black women are more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer at a later stage](#) [6] and are more likely to die of cervical cancer.
- [Black people make up 13 percent of the population in the United States yet account for more than 49 percent of AIDS cases](#) [7]. AIDS is the leading cause of death for Black women between the ages 25 to 34, and the second leading cause of death for Black men between the ages 35 to 44.
- [Black and Hispanic women have the highest teen pregnancy rates](#) [8].
- [Forty percent of Black Americans report being uninsured at some point from 2007 through 2008](#) [9].
- Black women continue to die from breast cancer at alarming rates and a recent study found [that half of Black teenage women reported having had one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases](#) [10].

Clearly there are a lot of health-care related reasons why reproductive health care providers seek to provide services to communities of color.

Women of color are not children unable to make health care decisions, our children are not a species on the brink of extinction through an organized genocidal plot and justice is found when a people are *unbound* and empowered by medically accurate knowledge rather than dogma. This Black History Month, despite well-produced marketing campaigns designed to spark fear and perpetuate myths, we must recommit ourselves to the struggle for reproductive justice in our communities. Now, more than ever, we need to address the realities on the ground and reject the conspiracy theories being shouted by the anti-choice mob.

For full article: <http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/blog/2010/02/12/women-color-and-antichoice-focus-eugenics>

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