



Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, March 1, 2010

Contact: Michelle Trupiano – 573.424.8717 (cell)

2010 PREVENTION FIRST ACT FILED IN HOUSE AND SENATE

[SB 982](#) (Sen. Bray, D-24) and [HB 2232](#) (Rep. Low, D-39), companion 2010 Prevention First Act bills, were filed last week with 52 co-sponsors. This package of prevention measures: promotes comprehensive sex education that is medically and factually accurate, age appropriate, and includes information on contraception as well as ways to watch for sexual predators on the internet; ensures patients at pharmacies can access birth control without discrimination or delay; protects access to all FDA-approved contraceptives from further government intrusion; and would allow expedited partner therapy to decrease the spread of gonorrhea and Chlamydia. We would hope that this year, the Prevention First Act would receive a vote in both chambers since it is the only bill that would safely help reduce the numbers of abortions in Missouri.

FOUR RESTRICTIVE BILLS APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

[SB 793](#) (Mayer, R-25), the **Abortion Restriction** bill, and [SB 792](#) (Dempsey, R-23), the **(Even More) Abortion Reporting** bill were, unsurprisingly, approved 5-2 along partisan lines in Senate Judiciary Committee. Thanks to Senator Justus and Keaveny for voting 'no' to these intrusive bills. SB 793 is on the Senate calendar; SB 792 was not yet reported in. Senator Mayer's bill intrudes significantly on the doctor:patient relationship and ignores the standard practice of medical care already in place for abortion providers. As reported in the last Monitor, Senator Cunningham demonstrated the types of invasions of privacy women fear from the government when she asked the PPMO lobbyist if she had ever had an abortion. Senator Mayer has repeatedly been invited to tour the abortion facility he seeks to further regulate but has yet to do so.

[HB 1327](#) (Davis, R-19) and [HB 2000](#) (Pratt, R-55) were rolled together and voted 'do pass' in House Children and Families Committee on Wednesday. Pro-choice committee members offered eight amendments—all defeated—that would have tried to make this abusive bill less onerous. The bill includes a new provision to require the abortion provider to report to the county prosecuting attorney any female under age 18 seeking an abortion. The reporting is required in addition to mandatory, written parental consent and regardless of whether an abortion is performed! In cases of young women 16 and younger, the abortion provider would also be required to collect a DNA sample which, without involvement by law enforcement, would have no admissible chain of evidence. In addition, the bill deeply offends sexual assault survivors by removing an adult woman's ability to consent for herself to the procedure. Rep. Mott Oxford objected that the bill would make false promises to women about the availability of public and private resources should she carry to term. Rep. Mott Oxford noted that the state budget is in severe crisis; the Alternatives to Abortion program was zeroed out in the proposed budget and all agencies are struggling to keep up with increasing needs in the community. Nothing in this bill is designed to help women; it is designed solely to make the procedure harder to access and to try to shame women. It should be soundly rejected.

TAX CREDITS FOR CPC'S REAUTHORIZATION BILL FILED

Rep. Sally Faith (R-15) filed the **Tax Credits for CPCs Reauthorization** bill that would allow the program to continue to provide 50%, up to \$50,000/year, tax credits to wealthy individuals who support Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs). CPCs, with the state's blessing, continue to provide women who are potentially facing an unintended pregnancy with incomplete information or complete misinformation about pregnancy, abortion, and emergency contraception. The goal of the CPC is to prevent the woman—by any means necessary—from obtaining an abortion. It is shameful that the state would endorse this activity.

Choice Lobby Days – Tuesday, March 16 & Wednesday, April 28

ATA FUNDS ZEROED OUT IN THIS ROUND OF BUDGET CUTS

Close to \$2 million in funds that support the Alternatives to Abortion program were cut in the most recent round of state budget negotiations. While PPMO recognizes that some of the ATA funds are awarded to highly reputable, trustworthy organizations that provide much needed services to pregnant women and new mothers, including Nurses For Newborns and the Crisis Nursery, there is nothing in the statute establishing the program that requires recipients of the money to provide women with medically and factually accurate information regarding their pregnancy and parenting, or any information about, or access to, contraception that can prevent further unintended pregnancies. In fact, the program expressly prohibits any of the funds from being used for family planning programs or services but is open to CPCs that scare and shame women. If any money is restored, the state should grant funds only to organizations that commit, in writing, to ensuring women receive complete, and medically and factually accurate information at all times.

March is Women's History Month and March 8th is International Women's Day...

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 2010 | 1 - 13 March 2010 | New York, UN HQ

This year the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly during its annual session at the UN in New York.

Emphasis will be placed on the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the [Millennium Development Goals](#). Member States, representatives of non-governmental organizations and of UN entities will participate in the session. A series of parallel events will provide additional opportunities for information exchange and networking. Ongoing national and regional review processes feed into the global review process.

The General Assembly is expected to mark the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in a commemorative meeting during CSW.

Background

The Commission on the Status of Women is a unique political opportunity for the global community to reaffirm:

- the commitments enshrined in the Beijing Platform for Action
- the ICPD Programme of Action
- the Millennium Development Goals
- the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

It is also an opportunity to address the gap between the rhetoric of the numerous commitments made to eradicate gender based violence by the international community and the reality facing women and girls around the world.

It also presents an opportunity for Member State governments to:

- reaffirm the right of women and girls to exercise their fundamental right to sexual and reproductive health and rights without fear or coercion
- reaffirm their commitment to anti-violence efforts through the eradication of gender discrimination in education as outlined in Millennium Development Goal 3

This UN Commission meets every year and works to enable governments to review progress in reaching agreed targets. It also works to develop new areas of policy or update old areas.

From: www.ippf.org – *International Planned Parenthood Federation*

To Subscribe to the Monday Monitor, [please click here](#).
To Sign up for the Planned Parenthood Action Network, [please click here](#).