



Monday *MONITOR*

Monday, May 10, 2010

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ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF “THE PILL”, HOUSE VOTES TO DENY WOMEN ACCESS

As women across the United States prepared to celebrate the [50th anniversary of the birth control pill](#), anti-choice legislators in the House voted **109(!)-42** to deny women access at the pharmacy. **Rep. Emery (R-126)** offered his **HB1365 Pharmacy Denial Bill** as an amendment to **SB754**, a professional registration bill. **Rep. Newman (D-73)** immediately offered a substitute amendment using the language in her consumer protection bill (HB1961) that would protect patients who seek to fill their prescriptions for contraceptives or purchase Emergency Contraception (EC) at the pharmacy.

Under the guise of protecting pharmacists from being required to stock RU486, an abortifacient, this amendment gives pharmacists carte blanche to deny women all forms of hormonal birth control. This deceptive amendment deliberately confuses RU486 with EC which, like all other forms of hormonal contraception works to PREVENT PREGNANCY. EC, if taken soon enough after unprotected sex, is highly effective in preventing a pregnancy; if the pregnancy is already established it does not work, and it does no harm to the pregnancy. In fact, EC is also used by Ob/Gyns to help stabilize an early pregnancy. **PHARMACIES DO NOT STOCK OR DISPENSE RU486: Mifeprex (the name it is sold under in the U.S.) is available only through direct contract between the manufacturer and the physician who performs the abortion.**

The goal of the amendment is to protect anti-woman pharmacists who refuse to dispense hormonal contraception, or sell over-the-counter EC, and who—if they do not stock these medications—also refuse to refer the woman to a pharmacy that will. The amendment should be stripped out during conference committee.

ABORTION RESTRICTION BILL HEARD IN HOUSE COMMITTEE; NOW IN RULES

SB793 (Mayer, R-25) was heard in House General Laws on Tuesday and referred to Rules where it is on the calendar for a hearing this Tuesday upon morning adjournment. During the hearing, anti-choice committee members badgered and bullied the opposition witnesses, much as they must hope the initiatives in the bill will badger and bully women into not choosing an abortion. And, if badgering is not enough, the bill includes additional burdens on women and providers they hope will make the procedure inaccessible.

On the House floor later Tuesday, **Rep. Pratt (R-55)** offered an amendment to **SB754**, the professional registration bill (Sen. Lembke attempted, but failed, to attach a similar amendment in the Senate Monday night) to gut the agreement reached in the Senate on **SB793**. The amendment, to penalize physicians who provide abortions, was approved by a vote of 108-42. This amendment should also be stripped out in conference committee.

TAX CREDITS FOR CPCs STILL MOVING

HB2252 (Faith, R-15), to re-authorize the 50% tax credit for donors who give to Crisis Pregnancy Centers, received a hearing in Senate Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight on Thursday morning. CPCs have been shown to frighten, intimidate and outright lie to pregnant women who come to them for options counseling. The state should NOT reauthorize state support for such deceptive and harmful practices. At the least, CPCs should be held to a basic standard of providing medically and factually accurate information.

KS SENATE SUSTAINS GOVERNOR'S VETO IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

Press Release, May 5, 2010, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri

Overland Park, KS – On behalf of Kansas women and families, our patients and our staff, Planned Parenthood applauds the Kansas Senate for sustaining Governor Parkinson's veto of Senate Substitute for House Bill 2115 (S Sub HB 2115) and its show of support for quality reproductive health care in Kansas. This action demonstrates a real commitment to the great majority of Kansans who support reasonable restrictions while assuring access to affordable health care.

"We commend the Senate's action today upholding Governor Parkinson's veto of this unnecessary legislation," stated Peter Brownlie, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri. Our Senators have sent a clear message that women's health matters. It's time for the legislature to focus on preventing unintended pregnancy and increasing access to preventive health services."

"Kansans want solutions that move the State forward in a positive direction, particularly in light of the current financial turmoil," concluded Brownlie. "We need to stop wasting untold taxpayer dollars on legislative and legal battles that accomplish nothing. We call on our elected officials to support proven programs that prevent unintended pregnancy; such as responsible sex education and affordable family planning services."

COMMITTEE CONTRADICTIONS

St. Louis Post Dispatch, May 5 2010—Letter to the Editor—John O'Neill — Webster Groves

After reading "Abortion gets lion's share of attention" (May 2), I have come to two conclusions. First, that being pro-life for some Republicans only qualifies until a baby is born. After that, all bets are off. Why else would state Rep. Cynthia Davis, R-O'Fallon, refuse to even hear a bill that would help protect children from unlicensed day care providers accused of criminal child abuse? Why else has Ms. Davis' committee, the House Special Standing Committee on Children and Families, had no hearings on any bills related to child-care safety or child abuse investigations?

Second, there is an element of irony in the fact that Republicans advocate less government interference in personal lives — until it comes to the issue of abortion and marriage. Ms. Davis has said that some Democrats might prefer the Committee on Children and Families to be called "the Bigger Governmental Intrusion Committee." Yet her committee has passed along several bills dealing with abortion restrictions and seeks to make it harder for couples to divorce. Both of these sound an awful lot like governmental intrusion into personal lives.

A VERY HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO THE PILL---ON MOTHERS' DAY!

The pill was approved by the FDA 50 years ago, on May 9, 1960. It was a medical breakthrough many years in the making, the most convenient and reliable form of birth control ever invented. Today, more than 100 million women around the world begin their day by taking a birth control pill.

The driving force behind the idea of limiting or spacing the number of children was a woman born in Corning, N.Y., in 1879 to a Catholic mother and a father who carved angels and saints out of marble. When her mother died at the age of 50 after 18 pregnancies, she confronted her father over her mother's coffin and charged, "You caused this. Mother is dead from having too many children." Margaret Sanger went on to train as a nurse and as early as 1912 was dreaming of a "magic pill" that would prevent pregnancy. She coined the phrase birth control in 1914. The birth control movement gained momentum during the Depression, when limiting the size of families became practically a matter of survival. America went from 55 birth control clinics in 1930 to more than 800 in 1942, the year Sanger's Birth Control League changed its name to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

With the pill being the most popular choice of contraceptive among women under the age of 30, many are thankful for the convenience of the method. Based on research on 46,000 women who were followed for nearly 40 years, women who have taken birth control pills are less likely to die from any cause compared to women who have never used the oral contraceptive, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal this March.

So this month, PPMO is wishing the birth control pill a happy 5-0! The history and impact of the medicine is so intertwined with Planned Parenthood and, even today, Planned Parenthood does more than any other organization to prevent unplanned pregnancies and help women and families make healthy, informed decisions about family planning.