



Monthly *MONITOR*

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TWO IMPORTANT VICTORIES IN THE FINAL DAYS OF MAY...

KANSAS GOVERNOR EXERCISES LINE ITEM VETO IN FAVOR OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

Dangerous amendment could have resulted in thousands without health care access

PPKM Press Release—May 28, 2010

Overland Park, KS—Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri (PPKM) applauds Governor Mark Parkinson for removing an amendment from the 2011 Kansas budget that sought to make Planned Parenthood ineligible for public funds for family planning services. Governor Parkinson has demonstrated his commitment to preventive health care that reduces unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion.

Planned Parenthood has been a trusted health care provider for Kansas' most vulnerable families for 30 years. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) administers the federal family planning program in Kansas and, for at least 25 years, KDHE has granted funds to PPKM to provide family planning services in Wichita and Hays. Family planning health care visits are the only health care many low-income Kansans receive. Not only do these programs have a successful track record and strong public support, they save money—every \$1 spent on family planning services in Kansas saves the State \$6.14 in Medicaid-related costs. “Public funding of family planning services is an investment in affordable preventive health care,” said Peter Brownlie, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri. “Governor Parkinson has made a sensible and responsible decision. The budget will continue to reflect the values of the vast majority of Kansans, rather than the narrow political agenda of a few, by supporting basic, preventive health care for low-income Kansans.”

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES | SEN. McCASKILL VOTES TO REPEAL BAN

Planned Parenthood Applauds Senate Committee Vote To Repeal Ban on Privately Funded Abortion

Care for Servicewomen—PPFA Press Statement, May 28, 2010 [excerpts]

Planned Parenthood Federation of America applauds the Senate Armed Services Committee for passing an amendment offered by Senator Roland Burris (D-IL) to the National Defense Authorization Act that would repeal the ban on privately funded abortion care for servicewomen.

“Every woman honorably serving our country in the U.S. military and the spouses of military personnel stationed around the world deserve access to the full range of reproductive health care available to women in the United States,” said Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. “The vote repealing this discriminatory and dangerous ban is the first step to ensuring that servicewomen can use their own private money for abortion care when they are serving overseas.”

The amendment passed the Senate Armed Services Committee with a vote of 16–10. This amendment simply allows a servicewoman to use her private dollars to pay for an abortion at the secure military hospital where she currently gets care. It does not change current federal policy prohibiting federal funding of abortion.

The current ban on privately funded abortions in military facilities threatens the health and lives of women serving overseas. A servicewoman in need of medically necessary abortion would be forced to leave the secure military hospital on which she depends and receives health care. She would have to venture out to a local medical facility in the foreign country where she is stationed to obtain an abortion. In many countries where U.S. servicewomen are stationed, abortion care may be inadequate, unsafe or altogether unavailable — forcing a woman into a dangerous, security-compromised situation. [...]

This ban extends far beyond prohibiting federal funding of abortion because it prohibits a woman serving overseas from using her own private dollars to obtain an abortion at a military facility. It affects the more than 100,000 women, including active service members and spouses and dependents of military personnel, who live on military bases overseas and rely on military hospitals for their health care.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF DR. GEORGE TILLER

Washington, DC— *Nevada Senator Harry Reid made the following statement on the Senate floor on the morning of May 27th, regarding the one year anniversary of the murder of Dr. George Tiller.*

“A community in Kansas still shakes one year after the brazen murder of one of its own. This weekend will mark the first anniversary of Dr. George Tiller’s death. He was gunned down in front of his Wichita church the day before last Memorial Day. Dr. Tiller was killed at point-blank range, at his place of worship, in the middle of a Sunday morning, while his wife sang in the church choir just yards away. He was murdered by an unrepentant assassin who took a life in the name of protecting life. It was an indefensible crime and an incomprehensible excuse.

“Just as despicable as Dr. Tiller’s death was the fact that his murder wasn’t an isolated incident. It wasn’t even the first time someone tried to kill him. His clinic was bombed in 1985. He was shot twice in 1993. And over the next 16 years, seven clinic workers would be killed before Dr. Tiller would become the eighth. More than 6,000 other acts of violence have been launched at clinics and their workers – bombings, arsons, assaults and other attacks. The last doctor killed before Dr. Tiller was a husband and father from Buffalo named Barnett Slepian. He was an OB/GYN who also helped poor women access safe, legal abortions. Because of that, he was murdered in his home. I didn’t know Dr. Slepian, but I knew his niece. She came from Reno, Nevada, and she once worked in my office.

“The tragedy of Dr. Tiller’s death, and of Dr. Slepian’s death – and of every atrocity like it – is independent of the issue of abortion. It’s not about the legality of abortion or funding of abortion. These are emotional debates, and ones on which people of good faith can disagree. What so shook that Kansas town was rather an act of terrorism. What reverberated out to our borders and coasts from the center of our country was the violation of our founding principle: that we are a nation of laws, not of men. Everyone in America has the right to disagree with its laws. Everyone has the right to dispute and protest its laws. But no American has the right to disobey them.

“Not all of us would choose Dr. Tiller’s profession. Not all of us would seek his services or agree with his philosophy. But it is the responsibility of every American to respect another’s right to practice his profession legally. Those who believe in the sanctity of life cannot be selective. We must value every life – not just those with which we agree.”

A TALE OF TWO PILLS: WHEN CULTURE TRUMPS TECHNOLOGY

The Lancet, June 5, 2010—Cecile Richards, Vanessa Cullins

Two of the most revolutionary breakthroughs in medicine during the 20th century were penicillin and the birth-control Pill, both of which saved lives and changed the world. However, the first was universally embraced by medical professionals and health-care systems, whereas access to the second remains scarce and is still controversial in some circles. The difference in the world’s acceptance of these two drugs has been all about gender.

Progress in reproductive health has proven more complicated than has the search for better antibiotics. The ability to ensure universal access to contraception has been hampered by a wide range of historical and cultural attitudes about women and their sexuality. The recent 50th anniversary of the approval of the Pill, a major technical advance, provides us with an opportunity to gauge what progress has been made socially since the eve of the women’s movement in 1960.

The Pill promised for the first time that women could decide whether and when to have a child, and the timing and spacing of their children. Practically overnight, women could decide the size of their families, pursue an education, have a career, take pleasure in their sexuality without fear of becoming pregnant, and enjoy improved health. Since its debut, much of that promise has been realised for millions of women. Access to safe and effective contraception coupled with a full range of reproductive health care has changed the lives of women worldwide. [...]

The sad fact is that the world’s values and attitudes about women and sex have lagged far behind its capacity to deliver technological solutions. Too many communities, cultures, and political constituencies are averse to trusting women to be fully responsible for themselves. To achieve our goal of a world that accepts contraception as wholeheartedly as it accepts antibiotics, there is only one lesson to teach: trust women.

We declare that we have no conflicts of interest.

For full article: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60843-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60843-4/fulltext)

June is LGBTQ Pride Month

June 25—Free HIV Testing at all St. Louis area, Springfield, & Joplin Planned Parenthood Health Centers

www.plannedparenthood.org/stlouis

Statewide Website

www.ppmissouri.org