

TAKE ACTION!

Planned Parenthood **Action** FUND

of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc.

A VOICE FOR CHOICE

November 2005

Message from **Action** FUND Chair – Loretta Redd



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Action FUND

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Christine Lyon

518 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, 93101
(805) 963-2445 x 125
Fax (805) 965-2292
ppsbvslo.org
actionfundppsbvslo.org

Prop. 73 Fails - California Voters Protect Teens & the Constitutional Rights of Women

The California electorate made the right decision when it voted on Election Day to defeat Proposition 73, the Parental Notification Initiative that not only threatened to put California's most vulnerable teens at risk but also threatened access to abortion for all women in California. Proposition 73 would have amended the constitution by including language that defined abortion as causing the "death of an unborn child, a child conceived but not yet born," establishing that life begins at conception. This would have undoubtedly provided the basis for legal arguments challenging a woman's right to have an abortion and a doctor's right to perform one.

The deployment of thousands of right-wing evangelical Christians to California from other states during the weekend before the election put into clear perspective the investment that right-wing hardliners have in banning abortion for all women. Proposition 73 was a thinly veiled attempt to do just that!

While the majority of pro-choice Americans stay focused on the plight of *Roe v. Wade*, the religious right continues its systematic effort to successfully legislate restrictions on reproductive rights. A tactic that has worked well for them in many other states where parental notification and consent laws have passed; abstinence only programs have expanded; and funds for contraceptive services for low-income women have been cut.

With the opportunity to confirm Judge Samuel Alito to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court, the right wing could finally have the majority vote it needs to overturn *Roe*. Should that occur, and the right to obtain an abortion is returned to the States, we can now we feel secure, at least for the moment, that in California a woman's right to control her own fertility is protected as a result of defeating Proposition 73.

Dedicated volunteers worked alongside staff putting in hundreds of hours to educate and mobilize thousands of voters throughout the tri-counties. Planned Parenthoods in California raised and spent in excess of \$4.4 million dollars to defeat this dangerous initiative. Our local *Action* FUND sent a considerable portion of its reserves to the Campaign for Teen Safety – our coffers are depleted...but the challenges continue. We are gearing up for a Supreme Court battle in January and a fight to take back control of the United States Senate in 2006.

Thank you for voting with us, for supporting our efforts and for believing in the work we do. Fighting to keep the right wing at bay is a continuing uphill battle, but one we will never shy away from. We need your ongoing financial help as we face an energized right wing driven by an unfettered zeal to turn back the clock on reproductive rights by imposing their narrow ideology on the rest of us. We must not allow them to succeed!

Sincerely,

Please help the *Action* FUND with its efforts by making a donation today go to www.actionfundppsbvslo.org to make a secure online donation

PLANNED PARENTHOOD **ACTION** FUND

Welcome New **Action FUND Board Members**



Suzanne Elledge

Suzanne Elledge is a Santa Barbara business owner and an active volunteer. Over the years, she has served on several boards, including the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, the Santa Barbara County Bowl, Hospital-ity House, and Leadership Santa Barbara. In 1993, Suzanne and her husband Dennis were honored as Volunteers of the Year by the Chamber of

Commerce for their work on the Kid's World playground project. Suzanne is the mother of three daughters and is proud to serve on the **Action FUND** Board.

"I wish for my daughter the same freedom I have enjoyed, to make her own health care choices."

- Karen Schloss Heimberg



Karen Schloss Heimberg

An active member of the Santa Barbara community, Karen Schloss Heimberg joined the **Action FUND** board in July. She currently sits on the Santa Barbara Middle School Board of Trustees and is Vice-President of the San Marcos High School Site Council. For the last 24 years, Karen has run a successful contracting business in Santa Barbara. She is past

president of Congregation B'nai B'rith and the mother of 3 children. Her 20 year-old daughter is Karen's inspiration to fight for reproductive freedom. Karen said, "I am proud and honored to be able to serve on this board."

**A special thank you to
Janet Wolf who served as Interim
Chair while Loretta Redd ran for
Santa Barbara City Council**

LORETTA AT THE HELM

Becoming Chair of the Action FUND is a privilege beyond words. The steady hand of Janet Wolf during times of incredible challenge to reproductive rights has guided this board to new levels of involvement, fundraising and advocacy.

Planned Parenthood, its services, education and advocacy, embodies all that is just in our world. On a daily basis, the staff and volunteers work to provide services of health, education of body, and choices regarding the timing and appropriateness of parenthood. We at the Action FUND strive to compliment and ensure the continuation of this work through our advocacy for political and judicial freedom at every level of government.

Though battle weary after the Special Election, we will redouble our efforts. We will gather strength from one another, and inspiration from those on the front lines at our clinics and in our legislatures. We will continue in the tradition of leaders who have offered hope and humor, guidance and goodwill.

If our opponents think they can outspend us, we will be more creative. If they think they can outnumber us, we will prove them wrong. Rev. Mark Asman reminds us so eloquently that, "The principal of personal empowerment and responsibility in an ownership society must be seen in the light of a woman's ownership of her own body."

As I accept the incredible honor of chair of the Action FUND board, I will need your help, I will look to you for ideas and inspiration, and I will expect us to be able to raise the funds necessary to win every battle to follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta".

Make your next donation online!

Go to www.actionfundppsbvslo.org
and click on
"Donate Online"
to visit the secure donation page.

www.actionfundppsbvslo.org

SPECIAL ELECTION 2005: PROP. 73 DEFEATED

Dedicated activists throughout the tri-counties sent letters to the editor, made presentations to community organizations, called voters, knocked on doors, passed out flyers and worked to educate our communities about the danger that Prop. 73 posed to California's most vulnerable teens and a woman's right to privacy. Our volunteers and coalition partners distributed over 30,000 flyers, called more than 4000 voters and made presentations to thousands of voters at community meetings and in classrooms from Simi Valley to San Luis Obispo. All of our hard work paid off - **WE WON!** Our sincerest thanks to our dedicated supporters who helped us defeat this initiative.

Proposition 73 Endangers Women

Courtney Weaver, Student
UCSB Daily Nexus

"[Prop. 73] undermines women's right to choose, and not just teenagers, but all women in California. ... It's the first step to wiping out the right to end a pregnancy at any stage, for any reason, for any woman.."

Abortion Rights Back on the Table

Charles A. Bradley, M.D.
*former medical director for PPSBVSLO
Santa Barbara Independent*

"I have dealt with many women who were not able, for a variety of reasons, to tell a parent about the pregnancy, in some cases even if they had decided to continue the pregnancy. I can guarantee that there will be women, if this proposition is passed, who will not agree to have a parent notified, who will not agree to go before a judge, and who will decide to have an illegal, unsafe abortion resulting in injury or even death."

CAMPAIGN for TEEN SAFETY

NO on Prop. 73

Local Endorsements (partial list)

Congresswoman Lois Capps
Assemblymember Pedro Nava
former Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson
Santa Barbara County Supervisors:
Salud Carbajal, 1st District
Susan Rose, 2nd District
Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum
Santa Barbara City Council Members:
Brian Barnwell, Iya Falcone, Roger Horton,
Helene Schneider, Das Williams

ACLU - Santa Barbara Chapter
Clergy for Choice
Health Care for All - Santa Barbara Chapter
League of Women Voters
Natl. Conference for Community and Justice
National Council of Jewish Women
National Women's Political Caucus, Ventura
Santa Barbara Commission for Women
Santa Barbara Democratic Central Committee
Santa Barbara Pro-Choice Coalition
Santa Barbara Republicans for Choice
Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee
Ventura Co. Democratic Central Committee
Ventura County Rainbow Alliance
Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network
UCSB VOX: Voices of Planned Parenthood

A dangerous law

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford
Ventura County Star

"I am not sure that my own children always told me everything about their activities, even though I tried to make it safe for them to do so. What I would hope is that all of our children can feel safe in going to someone when they are in need of advice and support about their sexual lives. Unfortunately, that person may not always be a parent."

Keep young women safe

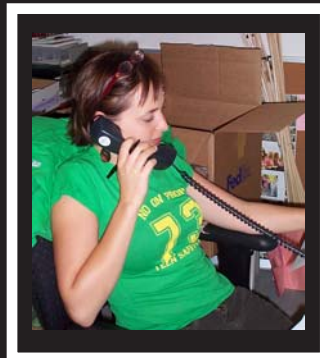
Dr. Minke WinklerPrins
The San Luis Obispo Tribune

"The cruel irony is that teens in troubled families, who need help the most, will be least likely to get it should Proposition 73 pass. ... Laws like this can force vulnerable teens to take matters into their own hands and risk their lives."

Tri-Counties Campaign Trail



Christine Lyon debates Prop. 73 co-author
Katie Short at Ventura College



Volunteer Elena Donovan talks to a voter
at a Santa Barbara phone bank



Clergy for Choice and Republicans for Choice
co-sponsor Santa Barbara press conference

POLITICS, SEX & COCKTAILS

OCTOBER 2, 2005

What do you get when you mix a Senator with a dash of champagne and a liberal dose of reproductive rights? You get *Politics, Sex and Cocktails!*



Cheryl Rollings, Christine Lyon, Sen. Daschle, Janet Wolf, Loretta Redd

This year's event, held at the art-filled home of Carole Lieff, set the stage for one of the most compelling speeches by an elected representative in *Action FUND* history. Commenting on the elegant setting Ms. Lieff's home provided and the quality of the hors d'oeuvres provided by James Sly and his staff from Lucky's restaurant, former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle joked that he now knew what it felt like to "live like a Republican" in a Democratic town.

Sen. Daschle lived up to his reputation as a senior statesman as he passionately defended the values and mission of Planned Parenthood and the *Action FUND*. Before a rapt crowd he recognized the significant contribution that our founder, Margaret Sanger, has made to the life of every woman and family in America today. Perhaps being out of the beltway has freed the Senator to speak with the type of candor rarely heard from sitting politicians. He spoke in depth

about the necessity for Democrats to find a consistent, positive message in order to win back the majority in Congress.

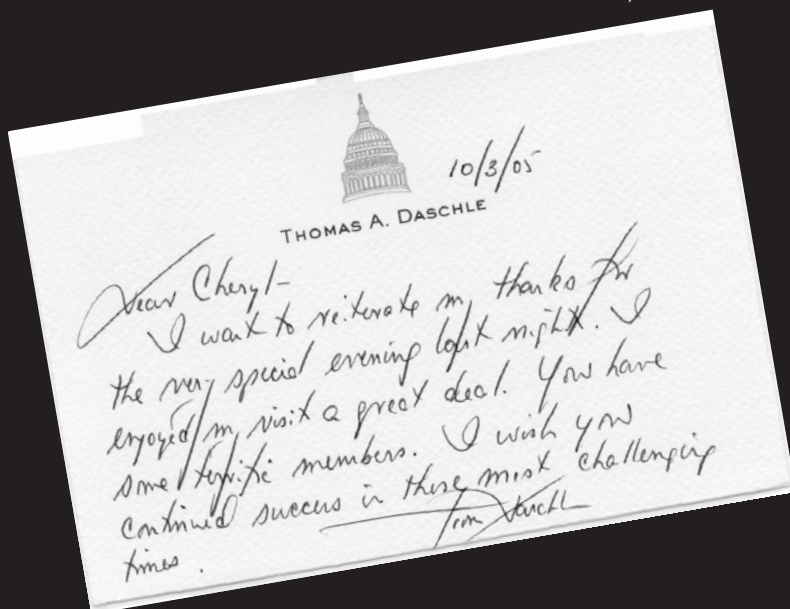
A genuinely surprised Rep. Lois Capps received the *Action FUND*'s revered "Giraffe Award" from board Chair Janet Wolf for "sticking her neck out for choice." Previous recipients include former Gov. Ann Richards, columnist Molly Ivins and former Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson. Rep. Capps, who has a 100 percent pro-choice voting record and is a long-time advocate for women's reproductive healthcare, touched the audience with her inspiring and gracious acceptance speech. She eloquently recalled her experience counseling pregnant teenagers as a school nurse and witnessing first hand the power and promise of sex education and contraception.



Rep. Capps accepts the "Giraffe Award"

All who attended *Politics, Sex & Cocktails* this year were inspired to a renewed enthusiasm and hope that our country can change its course of radical conservatism and will once and for all acknowledge and protect the right of all of us to have the information, access and freedom to make our own reproductive choices.

Loretta Redd, Chair



Senator Daschle with Carol Lieff

PLANNED PARENTHOOD **ACTION** FUND



U.S. Supreme Court: A Shift to the Right

As the Senate prepares for January hearings for the next Supreme Court nominee, Samuel Alito, we stand at a critical juncture. Alito's confirmation could radically transform the Supreme Court and create a direct threat to reproductive freedom and the right to privacy.

Samuel Alito: A True Conservative



Alito's record as a federal judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals provides a window into how he might rule in O'Connor's place.

In 1991, the Third Circuit heard *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, a case that challenged a Pennsylvania law that

would have severely restricted access to abortion. The Third Circuit upheld the law except for one restriction — a provision that would have required married women in Pennsylvania to notify their husbands prior to obtaining an abortion.

Alito dissented from the majority in *Casey* to express his support for the *entire* law, including the requirement that women notify their husbands of their intent to have an abortion.

The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court. A majority of the Supreme Court emphatically rejected Alito's opinion, deeming the restriction unconstitutional. Justice O'Connor, along with Justices Kennedy and Souter, wrote in reference to the spousal notification requirement, "Women do not lose their constitutionally protected liberty when they marry."

So what would have been different if Alito had been sitting on the U.S. Supreme Court in O'Connor's place in 1992? It's almost certain that today women in Pennsylvania, and perhaps many other states, would be required to notify their husbands before getting an abortion.

STATE

Governor Signs Patient Prescription Bill

On Thursday, September 29, Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 644, which protects the right of patients to have their prescriptions filled without having to worry that a pharmacist will refuse them for personal or religious reasons. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and volunteers, over 450 letters from our affiliate landed on the governor's desk asking him to sign SB 644 into law.

Bill Blocks Cuts for Family Planning Funding

Encouraged by a significant number of contacts from the public, the governor signed AB 1735, which prevents a 5% retroactive cut to Medi-Cal reimbursement rates. Planned Parenthood only recovers about 50% of the costs for services, so even a 5% cut could force some clinics to close their doors. PPSBVSLO sent 195 letters to the office of the governor in support of AB 1735. Way to go!



Legislative Corner

FEDERAL

Plan B for Plan B

In response to the FDA's ongoing delays to make a decision on over-the-counter access to Plan B, emergency contraception, a bipartisan group of Congressmembers introduced new legislation on Nov. 3. The Plan B for Plan B Act of 2005 would require the FDA to make a decision 30 days after it is passed. "It is time for the FDA to stop playing politics with women's lives and return to the days when its obligation to protect public health was taken seriously," said PPFA Interim President Karen Pearl.

Santa Barbara Pro-Choice Coalition Great American Write-In August 27, 2005



**1500 Signatures Gathered for Letters and
Pledges Supporting Reproductive Freedom**

Action FUND Candidates Win!

Marty Blum
Santa Barbara Mayor

Roger Horton
Santa Barbara City Council

Iya Falcone
Santa Barbara City Council

Neal Andrews
Ventura City Council

**And Congratulations to Winners
Designated 100% Pro-Choice**

Grant House
Santa Barbara City Council

Mary Haffner
Ventura Unified School Board



Standing Up for Choice

Important Action Links!

www.actionfundppsbsvslo.org

www.ppsbsvslo.org

www.plannedparenthood.org

www.plannedparenthoodvotes.org

www.responsiblechoices.org

www.fillmypillsnow.com

www.saveroe.com

www.independentjudiciary.org

www.feministmajority.org

www.now.org

www.kaisernetwork.org

www.naral.org

www.canow.org

www.ppacca.org

www.rcrc.org

www.benchmarkcampaign.org

Because of the political nature of the work of the
Action FUND donations are not tax deductible

HELP US FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS
BY DONATING TODAY!

- ✓ Donate to the Action FUND
- ✓ Join a committee
- ✓ Join the Activist e-mail network
- ✓ Volunteer: Call 963-2445 x 128
- ✓ Contact your legislators
- ✓ Register to Vote

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Stand Up for Choice

Planned Parenthood Action
FUND of Santa Barbara,
Ventura and San Luis Obispo
Counties, Inc.
518 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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