

TAKE ACTION!

Planned Parenthood **Action** FUND

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

A VOICE FOR CHOICE

June 2005

Message from **Action** FUND Chair – Janet Wolf



As I come to the end of my tenure as Chair of the *Action* FUND board, I realize how grateful and proud I am to be a part of Planned Parenthood. I have had the privilege of serving with wonderful board members who dedicated their time and energy to this amazing organization and of working with a professional, committed, and tireless staff.

The *Action* FUND's mission is to advocate for public policies that not only protect reproductive rights, but make them so firmly and universally accepted that they can never again be limited or taken away. Our work ensures that pro-choice candidates are identified; that voters elect them to office; and that funding for preventive services and educational programs remain intact for those who rely on us for help.

As you know, a Special Election will be held in November. Appearing on the ballot is an extreme initiative that would require providers to notify parents of teens under the age of 18 before offering abortion services. As the mother of three daughters I am strongly opposed to any initiative that would amend the California constitution to permanently and irrevocably imperil young women's lives. While mandating parental notification sounds good on the surface, what it actually does is endanger the health of the very teens that need help the most and permits government to intrude in sensitive family matters.

The vast majority of teens do involve their parents when faced with difficult decisions; but for those who don't, there's usually a good reason. In the real world, and even in the best of families, teens are often afraid of disappointing their parents and sometimes resort to desperate measures. As a parent, of course I would want to be notified of any medical procedure being performed on my daughters. More importantly, I want my them to receive safe, professional medical care and counseling in a timely manner. I don't want them to be forced to resort to unsanitary conditions or to travel out of state. Most parents want what is best for their daughters and for them to be safe - I know I do. I don't care how many laws are passed, you can't legislate good family communication.

Some of California's wealthiest right-wing extremists spent more than \$1.2 million dollars obtaining the signatures necessary to qualify this dangerous initiative. It is the job of the *Action* Fund and our supporters to ensure that it is defeated.

And so, in keeping with our mission, we will do everything we can to protect the privacy rights of families and the health of women. Be assured that the *Action* FUND and other organizations will be on the front lines working hard to defeat a constitutional amendment that puts the safety of young women in jeopardy. We can win but we'll need your help. We are confident that once Californians understand the consequences of such a law, they will defeat it.

Sincerely,
Janet Wolf

**To help the Action FUND with its efforts, please make a secure online donation to Planned Parenthood Action FUND of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. by visiting our website www.actionfundppsbvslo.org or by returning your check or credit card information in the enclosed envelope.*

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

PLANNED PARENTHOOD *Action* FUND

Welcome New *Action* FUND Board Officers



Loretta Redd

Chair-elect of the *Action* Fund, Loretta is a retired business owner and psychologist. She is an active volunteer on numerous boards, and is a candidate for Santa Barbara City Council. Loretta will assume her role as Chair after the November Election.



Fran Swart

Fran Swart has served on the *Action* FUND board for 3 years and is looking forward to assuming the role of Vice Chair and legislative liaison. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee.



Linda Tuomi

A long time women's rights activist, Linda volunteered as a Planned Parenthood escort in the early 90's. Fighting for reproductive rights has been a lifetime commitment for Linda. She serves on the steering committee of the Santa Barbara Pro-Choice Coalition. Linda will assume the role of Treasurer July 1st.



Audrie Krause

Audrie is the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County. In addition to serving on board of the *Action* Fund and the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee, she is a member of the Santa Barbara County Affirmative Action Commission. Audrie will serve in the role of Secretary.



Christine Lyon, Cheryl Rollings, actress Annabeth Gish, Loretta Redd, and Janet Wolf

On May 5th the talented Speaking of Stories performers, under the direction of Maggie Mixsell, had the audience howling with humorous stories about sexual encounters and mishaps at Speaking of Sex, this year's spring fundraiser. The PP Action Fund was thrilled to have actress Annabeth Gish as part of the ensemble, and pianist Konrad Kono to entertain the audience with his animated rendition of 'sexy' tunes. Lively conversation filled the back-stage 'Champagne and Chocolate' party as VIPs chatted with performers, sharing some stories of their own!

Planned Parenthood *Action* FUND
Makes Early Candidate Endorsements
for upcoming elections!

Loretta Redd
Santa Barbara City Council
November 2005 Election

Betty Yee
State Board of Equalization, 1st District
June 2006 Primary Election

Special Election - November
Take Action Today!
visit actionfundppsbvslo.org

- Sign up to Volunteer
- Join the Action Alert Network
- Make an Online Donation to
Planned Parenthood *Action* FUND

Keep teens safe, defeat
the Parental Notification Initiative!

Excerpts from the Rev. Mark Asman's Remarks on the 32nd Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*



In the waning light of our past national election, the postmortem on how to deal with issues of reproductive rights has begun. There are those who feel that a prudent strategy would be to back away from a woman's right to choose and concede the field to those who oppose us; since we are losing

the battle for the hearts and minds of our sisters and brothers on choice. It's not part of a winnable strategy.

To think and act strategically is important, but not at the expense of principle. We cannot back away or back down. We must redouble our effort to bring a clearer and more compassionate voice to the issue of reproductive rights because women's lives and all of our liberties are at stake.

As a pastor, part of my vocation is to sit with individuals and families facing very difficult personal choices and find a way to support them while they make these painful decisions. In my world as a person of faith, I have a choice: to stand for the complex and relative values that our humanity demands that we struggle to reconcile or allow others to impose a world of absolute values on everyone. This is a struggle for liberty at its most sacred level.

Those who oppose us have successfully painted a picture in society that we are callous and indifferent to the painfulness of choosing an abortion. That has never been my experience. It is a difficult and complex decision, which sometimes is the appropriate moral choice. In the world of sound bites, we have to reclaim our religious voice and be clear that ambiguity, the ability to hold onto two or more competing needs or values is not flip flopping, but part of the responsibility of what it means to be human.

Do we want to empower one another to make the best decision for themselves or do we want to impose a limited vision of absolutes on everyone? As people of faith who stand for a woman's right to choose, we must come out of the closet to our clergy and fellow believers and engage these vital issues in our churches, synagogues, temples and mosques.

I am not prepared to leave the religious field to those who oppose us.

I would like to end with a quote from one of my favorite authors, Karen Armstrong. In her most recent book, *The Spiral Staircase*, Armstrong writes, "[Religion is not] worth anything

if it makes [us] unkind or intolerant (298)... What is vital to all the [religious] traditions, however, is that we have a duty to make the best of the only thing that remains to us - ourselves. Our task is to mend our broken world; if religion cannot do that, it is worthless. And what our world needs now is not belief, not certainty, but compassionate action and practically expressed respect for the sacred value of all human beings, even our enemies" (304).

"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."

2005 Roe Anniversary Photos



Dr. Charles Bradley, Rev. Jill Martinez, Harry Schwartzbart and discuss Choice at the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network's *Roe v. Wade* Event



Julia Springer, Congresswoman Lois Capps and Carol Palladini Stand Up for Choice



Protect and Defend Rally in Isla Vista organized by the Santa Barbara Pro-Choice Coalition and UCSB Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood

PLANNED PARENTHOOD **ACTION** FUND



Senate Compromises on Judicial Filibuster at Women's Expense

On May 23rd, in an eleventh-hour compromise, Senate Democrats and Republicans agreed to preserve the filibuster for judicial nominees, but opened the door for a vote on three extremist, right-wing nominees.

Victory is Bittersweet

While we are relieved that checks and balances remain in place for future nominees, the compromise struck on judicial nominees is bittersweet for women who were counting on their senators to make sure that moderate, reasonable judges head up our federal courts. Women's access to reproductive health care should never have been the bargaining chip. Not 48 hours after the compromise, the consequences of an ultra-conservative majority in the Senate were revealed: Priscilla Owen, a Texas judge who has consistently ruled to deny access to abortion, was confirmed for a lifetime appointment.

Together, we successfully defeated Owen's previous nomination in 2003. But after his successful 2004 election, an emboldened George W. Bush renominated her. Owen's confirmation is proof of the danger America faces when all branches of our government are in the hands of anti-choice hardliners.

Raising the Stakes

On the same day that U.S. senators agreed to allow extremist judges one step closer to confirmation to the federal courts, the Supreme Court accepted a case that will revisit restrictions on legal access to abortion. Who sits on that court could well determine the future of women's access to abortion for years to come.

With the pro-choice balance on the Supreme Court hanging by just one vote, and three justices nearing retirement, we must continue to oppose the confirmation of all anti-choice judicial nominations.

President Bush's Picks for the Federal Judiciary Confirmed

Janice Rogers Brown

After Senate Democrats blocked her nomination for two years, California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown was confirmed by the Senate on June 8th to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. PPFA opposed Justice Brown based on her views on minors, privacy, and judicial scrutiny of fundamental rights.

William Pryor

On June 9th the Senate confirmed William Pryor to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. Just last year, in a move that completely circumvented Congress, President Bush installed William Pryor to the federal judiciary with a recess appointment. William Pryor has a record opposition to abortion and the separation between church and state.

Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood

On Monday May 23rd the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear a case involving a law that restricts access to abortion. The law was ruled unconstitutional by the First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals because it contained no health exception in the event of a medical emergency.

The New Hampshire law in question would have required health care providers to notify a parent at least 48 hours before providing an abortion to a woman under the age of 18, or for young women to obtain a court waiver of this requirement.

This case comes at a time of extremely heated congressional debate over the judiciary and rampant speculation about Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's retirement.

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"Donate Online"
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If you have problems or concerns,
please call 963-2445 x. 121

www.actionfundppsbvslo.org

CAPITOL DAY 2005

Activists Speak Out for Reproductive Freedom at the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom's 2005 Capitol Day!



Action FUND Board members Myfanwe DeVoe and Catherine Woodford joined tri-county participants for the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom's Capitol Day

On Tuesday, June 7th pro-choice activists throughout the state traveled to Sacramento to participate in the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom's (CCRF) Capitol Day. Eleven committed volunteers and staff from local organizations including: the Action FUND, Planned Parenthood, the Santa Barbara Pro-Choice Coalition, and the Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network visited legislators to talk about reproductive health care issues and participated in educational workshops. With over four hundred advocates storming the Capitol, the day provided an awesome visual of the power and passion of California's reproductive rights movement.



PPSBVSLO staff visits with Assemblymember Pedro Nava

LEGISLATIVE CORNER

Federal

Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA)

On April 27th, the House passed the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (CIANA), which would prevent non-parents, such as grandmothers, aunts and siblings, from helping a teenage family member obtain an abortion outside of her home state, unless the teen has fulfilled the parental involvement laws in her home state. The bill also imposes a 24-hour waiting period and parental notification requirement on doctors, regardless of state laws.

Prevention First Act

On January 4th, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced the "Prevention First Act". This landmark legislation would not only expand access to family planning services, ensure comprehensive medically accurate sex education, and end insurance discrimination against women, it would promote emergency contraception, especially for sexual assault survivors. The "Prevention First Act" aims to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and the need for abortion among women of all ages.

State

Patient Prescription Protection Act Passes the Senate!

Senate Bill 644 by Deborah Ortiz (D-Sacramento), would create a duty to dispense lawfully prescribed medications. The legislation would require that pharmacists notify their employer in advance if they have objections to filling prescriptions so the pharmacy can guarantee its customers timely access to prescribed medications. SB 644 also requires that if a pharmacy does not stock a medication, a referral must be made to another pharmacy within a reasonable distance that is known to stock.

EC Access Project

In March, local Planned Parenthood volunteers participated in the Emergency Contraception (EC) Access Project to ascertain what women's real life experiences were when filling EC prescriptions in pharmacies throughout the state. While the majority of responses were positive there were four women who had their prescriptions refused by pharmacists. The project underscores the importance of Senator Ortiz's legislation and the need, nationwide, to ensure patients have access to lawfully prescribed medications.

IMPORTANT ACTION LINKS!

- www.actionfundppsbsvslo.org
- www.ppsbsvslo.org
- www.plannedparenthood.org
- www.plannedparenthoodvotes.org
- www.responsiblechoices.org
- www.protectwomenshealth.com
- www.saveroe.com
- www.independentjudiciary.org
- www.fillmypillsnow.com
- www.feministmajority.org
- www.now.org
- www.kaisernetwork.org
- www.naral.org
- www.canow.org
- www.ppacca.org
- www.rcrc.org
- www.benchmarkcampaign.org

In the Community



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 RAN Activist e-mail network
- ✓ Volunteer: Call 963-2445 x 112
- ✓ 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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