
The Public Affairs Pulse

Keeping You on Top of Legislative Issues

PPAM Hosts Annual Students for Choice Conference

On February 20, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan (PPAM) hosted the annual Students for Choice conference in Kalamazoo for about 40 students from nine colleges and universities throughout the state. The day was a great success, thanks to the team's impeccable planning!

The conference included a round-robin learning activity and informative presentations. Keynote speaker, Sherry Brockway, from the Kalamazoo YWCA, gave a wonderful presentation about domestic violence that captivated the students.

During the conference, PPAM launched its "EC in the ER" Campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to change existing laws to ensure that emergency contraception (EC) is available for sexual assault victims in all Michigan emergency rooms. Over the next two months, Students for Choice groups will be working to create awareness of and develop support for this campaign, culminating in a Lobby Day in Lansing on April 13.

Military Women Overseas Gain Access to EC

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon has announced that EC will be made available at all

hospitals and health centers at military bases around the world. In November, the Pentagon's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee had recommended that EC be offered on the list of medications made available to service members overseas.

"We applaud the Pentagon for ensuring that every woman honorably serving our country and the spouses of military personnel stationed around the world will have access to the same basic reproductive health care available to women in the United States," said Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) President Cecile Richards.

New Education Task Force

WASHINGTON—PPFA's new Education Task Force (ETF), created last fall, is gearing up for a busy year. The ETF, made up of a diverse group of educators, CEOs, affiliate board members, and PPFA Board members, will be launching a "Sex Ed Affiliate Tour" to spend more time at Planned Parenthood education departments across the country to see what is happening on the ground.

The ETF will be evaluating content and program models in an effort to garner new private and federal funding for programming.

The ETF will also be working with the new Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) within

the Department of Health and Human Services. The OAH is being formed to coordinate adolescent health programs and initiatives across the Department, including new funding now available for comprehensive sex education programs. Evelyn Kappeler was named the Acting Director of the new OAH. Kappeler has a long history with reproductive health issues and the Title X family planning program. In that capacity, she's very familiar with Planned Parenthood and the work of our affiliates, so PPFA is looking forward to working with her to help ensure that our education programs can access this new federal funding stream.

MLK Day Project a Big Success!

With every PPWNM center participating, this year's MLK Day Project was a huge success! PPWNM had a great response from employees, supporters, the community, and the media.

PPWNM collected hundreds of items; practically anything a woman needs to feel clean and cared for as she seeks refuge from a dangerous domestic situation. Many thanks to all of those who helped make this year's collection campaign a success, and we look forward to an even bigger campaign in 2011!

Sources: PPFA, **Editor:** Dani Vilella