

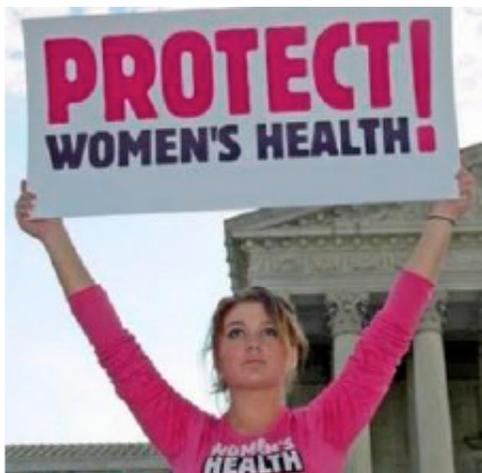
TEEN GIRLS SHOWING POSITIVE SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

In May 2012, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a new report on sexual experience and contraceptive use among teens indicating that teens are waiting longer to have sex and are using more effective contraceptive methods.

The study analyzed data from the National Survey of Family Growth from 2006-2010 and found that 57% of females aged 15-19 reported never having had sex, an increase from 1995 when 49% reported not having sex. Among racial and ethnic groups, no major differences were found. However, among those aged 15-17, 73% had not had sex compared to 36% of older teens.

Contraception use among girls, particularly highly effective methods like IUDs and hormonal contraceptives, were on the rise. Fifty-nine percent of sexually active teens reported using a highly effective contraceptive method. Compared to girls surveyed in 1995, sexually active girls during the 2006-2010 survey were 26% more likely to use a highly effective contraceptive method.

Despite these optimistic trends, the United States continues to have a teen birth rate higher than most industrialized countries.



Courtesy of Raising Women's Voices
www.raisingwomensvoices.net

▶ FY 2013 Budget Cuts ▶

On July 19th, the House Appropriations (Labor-HHS) Subcommittee passed its version of the fiscal year (FY) 2013 spending bill in an 8-6 vote. In addition to eliminating funding for the Title X Family Planning Program, the Labor-HHS budget bill:

- Bars Planned Parenthood and its affiliates from receiving federal funds
- Bars funding for Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act provisions that draw objections based on “moral or religious” grounds like the contraception coverage mandate
- Extends current law to protect health care providers that refuse to administer abortion care
- Cuts \$85 million from the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program
- Cuts funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by 10%
- Eliminates the Prevention and Public Health Fund

Democratic lawmakers on the Subcommittee expressed concern over these explicit attacks on women’s health services and safety-net providers. Despite efforts to protect Title X through amendments, all of them failed largely along party lines.

*Note: The Republican Majority for Choice (www.gopchoice.org) stated, “There is no argument that significant budget cuts are necessary in order to decrease the federal deficit, but ideologically fueled cuts will not contribute to long-term stability. Last year, RMC was instrumental in the fight to restore Title X funding, which is devoted to providing low-income individuals and families with preventative services unrelated to abortion.”

The bill will now move to the full House Appropriations Committee for consideration sometime before the end of July or the first week of August.

In this issue

- 1 ▶ “Summer lovin’ had me a blast...”
- 2 ▶ Teen Girls Showing Positive Sexual Behaviors
 - ▶ FY 2013 Budget Cuts
- 3 ▶ Welcome Kimberly
 - ▶ Males And Pregnancy Prevention
- 4 ▶ Religious Liberty And Freedom Of Choice – Controversy Or Conflict
- 5 ▶ “The Sacredness Of Life And Liberty” A George Lakoff Essay
- 6 ▶ How Access To The Pill Boosted Women’s Wages
- 7 ▶ What Does It Mean To Be “Pro-Choice?”
- 8 ▶ Calendar

▶ NEW BOARD MEMBER ▶

WELCOME KIMBERLY

Kimberly D'Urso is a mother to three gifted children and is happily married to her husband, Shawn Garvey. She has been living in Nevada County for four years.

As an active leader in Congressional District 1, Kimberly was elected as a second-time Delegate to attend the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina this September.

One of Kimberly's commitments in life is to working on progressive issues and against the War on Women, which is why she founded the group "We Stand Against the War on Women," also known as "Women Against the War on Women."

Kimberly's other interest areas are cooking delicious meals for friends and family, gardening/farming, and traveling. Sharing many cultural experiences is integral to who Kimberly is in the world.

"Being a newly-elected board member of Citizens For Choice is an honor. I see this as an opportunity for me to contribute my time toward education and facilitation that focuses on and honors women in our community, of all ages, to make unbiased choices for their bodies. I look forward to rallying support in our community for Citizens For Change, which has been an integral player in providing women's support and crucial health services for over 23 years."



▶▶ PREVENTION ▶▶

MALES AND PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Helping boys and young men understand the importance of sexual health not only increases their likelihood of avoiding teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), but can positively impact other areas of their development as well, including:

- Peer and intimate partner relationships;
- Definitions of masculinity and strength; and
- Mental and emotional health.
- Parents are often unsure when and/or how to address sexual and reproductive health issues with adolescent males. As a result, parents may hesitate to provide boys and young men with the information necessary to protect themselves from unplanned pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infections.

• Contraceptive use should not be the sole responsibility of one partner or the other, instead boys and young men should be encouraged to discuss contraceptive methods with their partners, assist in choosing a method, acquiring it, and using it correctly. The same principles may be applied to use of emergency contraception (EC).

From "Supporting Young Male Involvement in Pregnancy Prevention & Parenting"
HealthyTeenNetwork.org

Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors whose generous donations were received between April 24, 2012 to June 28, 2012

BENEFACTOR

Sisterhood of B'Nai Harim
Charles Lindquist

SUSTAINER

Steve and Nancy Eubanks
Unitarian Universalist
Community of the
Mountains
Anonymous

ADVOCATE

Judy Blake
Richard Johnson, M.D.
Marlene Katz, Ph.D.
Beverly and Ron Mathis
Sherry Michener
Kathy Murphy
Jan and Julia Nelson
Darlene and Roy Paulsen
Ruth and Richard
Schwartz
Jerry Sharp
Edi and Al Silverman

SUPPORTER

Vince Alcantar
David and Gloria Baker
Anne and Art Barta
Marion and Claire Becker
Mary and Charles Brock
Marilyn Chambliss
Betty Jane and George
Comegys
Karen Cox
Marjorie Detterman
Lindsay Dunkel
George and J.L. Dunstan
Larry Friedlander, M.D.
Frances K. Green
Hindi Greenberg
Ellen Hagan
Suzanne Hawkins
Willow Hein
Jean Humburg
Robin Mallery
Lily Marie and Robert
Mora
Sue Nepstead
Frank and Elaine Newlin
Sheila and Tim O'Connor
Richard & Patricia Pennock
Cheryl Perez
Barbara and Don Rivenes
Susan and Win Rogers
Debbie and Jack Russell
Lois Shelton
Wm. and Joan Toensing
Lynn and Jeff Wenzel
Anonymous

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND FREEDOM OF CHOICE – CONTROVERSY OR CONFLICT

By Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Director

Let's be clear: freedom of religion does not automatically and always require that religious leaders or their institutions be exempt from laws that apply to others. And that is true even when a law requires them to do something that they say violates the doctrine of their particular religion.

Lately, some religious leaders – notably the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – have argued for a broad exemption from the new federal requirement that employers include contraceptive coverage in health insurance benefits for their employees. Why? Because, they say, the Catholic Church, as an institution, opposes all forms of artificial birth control. Women's health advocates, like Citizens for Choice, on the other hand, argue that access to birth control is an important public benefit that our government has the authority – some would say, the responsibility -- to ensure be made available to its citizens, for valid public health and social justice reasons.

Opposing views on the birth control coverage requirement have stirred controversy. But, is the controversy a conflict that cannot be reconciled? Does respecting religious liberty require that access to birth control be denied for all women employed by hospitals or universities that are religiously affiliated?

The answer to both questions is, "No."

Requiring contraceptive coverage clearly falls under the Affordable Care Act's general guarantee -- that all new insurance plans cover certain preventive services without cost to people they insure, that is, without copays and deductibles. And, the accommodation made for religious employers adequately protects religious liberty.

As a starting point, it is important to note that churches themselves are exempt from the new requirement. Religious institutions that do not fall within that exemption are religiously affiliated hospitals and universities. Catholic hospitals are the largest category. They employed over 530,000 fulltime people across 45 states as of 2010, according to the Catholic Health Association of the United States. The accommodation made for such religiously-affiliated employers is to allow

their employees to access contraceptives directly from their health insurance plans. Thus, issuers of health insurance are directed to offer group health insurance coverage without contraceptive coverage to organizations eligible for the accommodation, while simultaneously providing contraceptive coverage directly to the participants and beneficiaries with no cost sharing. Notably, the Catholic Health Association is satisfied with the accommodation.

It's also important to be aware that the exemption from the birth control requirement sought by some religiously affiliated employers is an expansion of existing law that would change existing practices for many of them. For example, Catholic Healthcare West (renamed "Dignity Health" this year) is required by state law to provide birth control coverage to its employees. Not only has it been voluntarily complying with California laws mandating birth control coverage, but also, it provided contraceptive coverage before it was required to do so. (See <http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2011/12/02/143022996/catholic-groups-fight-contraceptive-rule-but-many-already-offer-coverage>.) Its network of hospitals has offered contraceptive coverage to its employees since 1997. As Sarah Lipton-Lubet of the ACLU put it, this isn't a fight about religious liberty. Rather, "What the bishops and their allies are asking for is the ability to impose their religious beliefs on people who don't share them."

Indeed, most Catholics don't share their church's view that using birth control is a sin – as shown by the widespread use of contraceptives by Catholic women. Furthermore, a recent poll found that 67% of Catholics do not accept the argument that religious liberty is under attack. As for voters in general, according to a June 2012 survey by Hart Research Associates, nearly three in four agree that we should do everything we can to make sure that people who want to use prescription birth control have affordable access to it and that cost is not an obstacle. Most Catholic voters – 66% -- agree with that policy. The same survey found that most voters see the issue of whether employers

Baskets!

The following businesses and offices have graciously allowed us space in their store to display our informational baskets. We thank them!

Behind Closed Doors
Big Diamond Tattoo
BriarPatch
Cafe Mekka
Classic Tattoo
Common Goals
CoRR (Community Recovery Resources)
DVSAC
Garrett Eckerling MD
Foggy Mountain Music
Good Times Skate Shop
Maternity Health Center
The Mine Shaft
Nito's T-shirts & Accessories
Renegade Rider
Serendipity
Sierra Care Physicians,
Grass Valley
Sierra Care Physicians,
Penn Valley
Sierra College
Health Services
Sierra Family Medical Clinic
Sierra Mountain
Coffee Roasters
Tribal Weaver
Valentina's Bistro and Bakery
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Services)
Judi Wright MD
Yabobo
Yuba Docs



Cont. page 5

cont. from page 4

should provide prescription birth control to their employees is more a matter of women's health care than one of religious liberty. That is especially true given that religiously affiliated hospitals and universities hire employees for reasons other than religious beliefs and behaviors, and employ many that are not of their faith.

The head of the Catholic Health Association, Sister Carol Keehan, applauded the Supreme Court decision upholding the ACA, stating that, "Our ministry worked hard to enact this law because it would defend human dignity, provide insurance coverage to vulnerable persons and hard-working families and reflect the values of a fair and compassionate nation." I couldn't agree more.

Let's not let the current controversy detract from efforts to see that the reform law meets its potential, expanding health insurance coverage to most of the 50 million Americans without affordable health insurance. And let's not fall into the trap of thinking that religious liberty requires exempting all religious employers from providing a critical preventive service, contraception, to hundreds of thousands of women.

"THE SACREDNESS OF LIFE AND LIBERTY" A GEORGE LAKOFF ESSAY

Reviewed by Marlene Katz, Ph.D.

The Huffington Post printed an article by George Lakoff on 7/16/12 titled "The Sacredness of Life and Liberty". Lakoff is a linguist at UC Berkeley and wrote the book *MORAL POLITICS*. In short he related that the NY TIMES article on June 5 concerned the fact that morning-after pills do not operate on fertilized eggs at all.

This matters because conservative Republicans and the Catholic Church believe that the fertilized eggs are people and they believe that this is baby-killing. This position by both entities is more likely based on outdated scientific supposition about how the pill works.

It's all about control of reproductive rights, male control of family life and making judgments about women whom they feel are immoral.

Their feeling is that if there are no abortions then they are saving lives, even though their policies are not concerned with care of the unborn, health of babies or prenatal care.

The two groups feel: A Fertilized Egg is a Person. His argument is this, quoted directly: Imagine that you want to buy a horse. You pay for a horse and what is delivered to you is a fertilized horse egg. You would probably feel cheated. You can't ride or race a fertilized horse egg. It isn't a horse. Even in Texas. You need a mare and a lot of development. A single cell isn't a horse.....

He advocates that progressives stop using certain words if you need to argue with a conservative: baby, unborn child to refer to a blastocyst, embryo, or fetus; nor the word abortion, nor partial birth abortion, nor morning-after pill. In his article he states reasons for not using the mentioned words above.

Read the whole article in Huffington Post for a more in-depth discussion of the linguistics involved in these policy issues and women's rights. www.huffingtonpost.com

2012 Board

Vice President for Administration
Elaine Sierra

Vice President Programs
Sharon O'Hara

Secretary
Miranda Lamon

Treasurer
Charlotte Cammon
Kimberly D'Urso
Marlene Katz, PhD

Public Policy Committee
Cecelia Royal
Judy Seabridge

Facebook - Like Us
www.facebook.com/citizensforchoicevadacounty
and
www.facebook.com/C.H.O.I.C.E.S.#!/pages/CHOICES/220914254600182

Editor: Phyllis Orzalli
info@citizensforchoice.org

The Clinic!

120 Richardson St,
Suite A, Grass Valley
Near So. Pine Cafe

Monday 10:30—5
Wednesday 12 – 6
No appointment necessary!

Contact us
P.O. Box 3525
Grass Valley, CA 95945
www.citizensforchoice.org
info@citizensforchoice.org

530.274.3331

Citizens for Choice messages will be retrieved weekly

The Clinic!

530.521.3273

24/7 Women's Health Specialists

800.714.8151

SPD Shoppers



Pick up an SPD Community Card today!

Register your card by calling
800.931.6258
or visiting escrip.com/SPD

SPD Markets will contribute 3% of your purchases to Citizen for Choice every time you shop and present your card.

It's Free • It's Easy • Sign Up Today!



▶▶▶ WOMEN AND THE PILL ▶▶▶

HOW ACCESS TO THE PILL BOOSTED WOMEN'S WAGES

By Stephanie Pappas, LiveScience Senior Writer March 2012

The early availability of the birth control pill is responsible for roughly a third of women's wage gains since the 1960s, finds new research that adds another dimension to the debate over insurance coverage of contraception.

"As the pill provided younger women the expectation of greater control over childbearing, women invested more in their human capital and careers," study researcher Martha Bailey, an economist at the University of Michigan, said in a statement. "Most affected were women with some college, who benefitted from these investments through remarkable wage gains over their lifetimes." Bailey and her colleagues used data on women's wages and education from the National Longitudinal Survey of Young Women, which began in 1968 and continued with 21 follow-up interviews with more than 5,000 women over the years. In this study, the researchers focused on the 4,300 or so women born between 1943 and 1954.

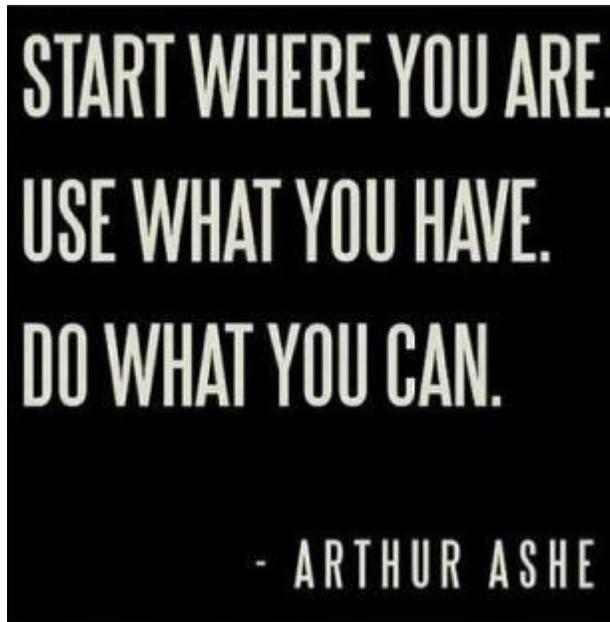
For these women, early access to the pill varied. After birth control pills were approved for contraceptive use in healthy women in 1960, U.S. states varied as to what age unmarried women could get the pill without parental permission. In some, the age was 18, while other women had to wait until 21. Availability doubled the use of the pill among women in the 18- to 21-year-old range — a crucial time, given the beginning of college and higher education. With oral contraceptives, women no longer had to choose between investing in their careers and investing in a mate (with which came the risk of pregnancy), the researchers said.

The result, Bailey and her colleagues report in a National Bureau of Economic Research working paper due to be published in July in the *American Economic Journal: Applied*

Economics, was that women in early-access states saw a decline in their wages in their 20s as they invested in their education. By the 1980s and 1990s, though, those same women were making 8 percent more each year than their counterparts who hadn't had access to the pill so early. Of the one-third bump in wages attributable to early access to the pill, two-thirds of that came from these women having greater workplace experience, the study found. The rest came from women gaining more education and from choosing more lucrative, traditionally male, fields.

The study likely underestimates the role of the pill, Bailey said, given that it did not take into account the effect of pill use differences after age 20 or so.

"The pill's availability likely altered norms and expectations about marriage and childbearing," Bailey said. "It also likely affected the decisions of companies to hire and promote women."



Melinda Gates on Contraception

"I think we made birth control and contraceptives way too political in the United States," said Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "I think if people understood that 200 million women want this around the world they would start to say, 'OK that makes sense.' ... We shouldn't make it such a political issue."

"I work on a broad set of foundation issues," said Gates. "But this one for me has really grasped my heart and my mind. She added: "This will be my lifetime's work at the foundation."

As told to CNN, July 6, 2012

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “PRO-CHOICE?”

By Jodi Jacobson, Editor-in-Chief, RH Reality Check www.rhrealitycheck.org

In its most narrow sense, the term “pro-choice” is short-hand for a group or individual who believes a woman should be able to choose an abortion if and when she desires to terminate a pregnancy that is either unintended and untenable, or simply untenable. And certainly, the anti-choice community focuses solely on this aspect of the pro-choice agenda.

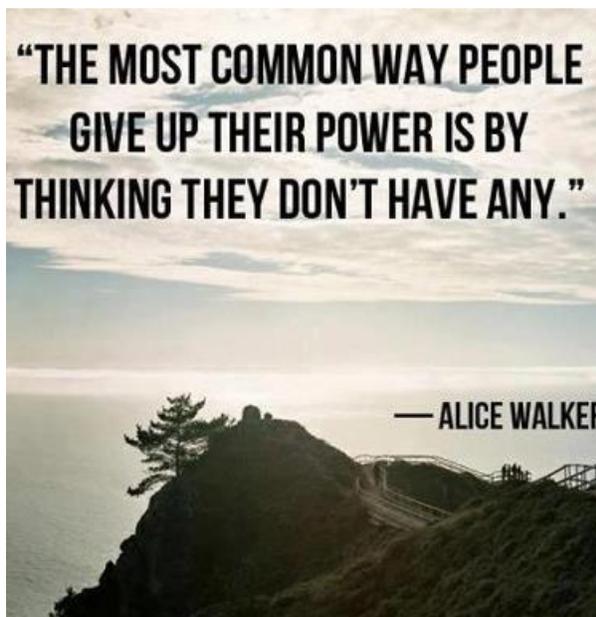
But in the fullest sense--and in the political sense--it means much, much more because in truth being “pro-choice” is a political worldview that sees women as equal actors and full participants in society and is based on the belief that every born child should be a wanted, loved, cared-for child. Being pro-choice means understanding that the condition of pregnancy is not an obligation to parenthood and that unless women have the means to achieve sexual and reproductive health, effectively manage their fertility and plan their families, neither of the above conditions can exist.

Being pro-choice means believing in the right of women to choose whether, when, and with whom to bear a child and to determine whether, when, and to whom make a lifelong commitment to becoming a mother for the first time, the third time, or the seventh time; whether to become a mother not now but later, or never to become a mother at all; whether or not to become a parent to an apparently healthy child or give birth knowingly to a profoundly disabled child; whether to become a mother in spite of health risks or to avoid or terminate a pregnancy because of health risks; whether to freely decide to carry to term a pregnancy resulting from such profound human rights abuses as marital or stranger rape or incest; whether to carry an unintended pregnancy to term and

give a child up for adoption or to decide to carry to term and raise a child resulting from an unintended pregnancy.

Being pro-choice means understanding that self-determination for women regarding sex, sexuality, reproduction and motherhood is a fundamental precursor to women’s ability to achieve their own educational, economic and familial aspirations, a fundamental precursor to the health and well-being of individuals and families, and a core condition of the long-term stability and health of society. It therefore also means understanding the profound connections for women--supported by more than ample evidence--between economic and educational status and unfettered access to comprehensive sexual health education, contraception, family planning services, and abortion care.

Finally, it bears repeating again that being “pro-choice” is a political worldview that sees women as equal actors and full participants in society and is based on the belief that every born child should be a wanted, loved, cared-for child. This alone is a moral position, and unless and until these conditions are fulfilled, we can not achieve justice, no matter how many other deals we strike on other issues.



“The idea that a woman’s purity and modesty is the core of her identity, as it relates to her culture, limits the visions women can have for themselves, their self-expression and control over their own bodies and sexuality. It creates the culture that allows for women’s sexuality to be abused and controlled.” - Feministing

▶▶▶ *Calendar* ▶▶▶

Get involved! Support Citizens for Choice at these events

- August 16th GV Thurs. Night Market - Look for our table on Mill St. by Sergio's
- August 19th Community Festival (sponsored by the Nev-Co Democrats) Northstar House, 2-7PM Citizens
for Choice will have a table there
- August 26th Women's Equality Day
- September 9th Constitution Day Parade, Nevada City - We'll be carrying our banner and marching with
Business & Professional Women, League of Women Voters and others. Look for an email later
with more details
- October 12-14th See Jane Do is honored to present the 3rd Annual Passion into Action Women's Conference -
Early Bird Registration Ends August 8th, 2012. www.seejanedo.com

Please share this newsletter-an easy way to double our circulation and exposure!

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ www.citizensforchoice.org