

THE YEAR AHEAD: CHALLENGES TO ROE AND ABORTION ACCESS

By Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Director

BANNING ABORTION ENDANGERS WOMEN'S HEALTH

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF MOST ABORTIONS

222 MILLION WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD HAVE AN UNMET NEED FOR MODERN CONTRACEPTION

47,000 WOMEN DIE YEARLY FROM COMPLICATIONS OF UNSAFE ABORTIONS. **MILLIONS MORE ARE INJURED**

86% OF ABORTIONS TAKE PLACE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD WHERE MOST ABORTION LAWS ARE HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE

Making abortion illegal does not stop it from occurring – it just forces women to obtain clandestine and unsafe procedures

PERCENTAGE OF ABORTIONS THAT ARE UNSAFE

■ >75% ■ 50-75% ■ 10-49% ■ <10%

For more information visit www.gutmacher.org © 2013

First, let's all appreciate just how lucky we are to reside in Nevada County, California, where threats to our reproductive and sexual health and autonomy seem remote. California has none of the major types of abortion restrictions—such as waiting periods, mandated parental involvement or limitations on publicly funded abortions—often found in other states. Let's all acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments of advocates for reproductive justice and choice in our state. Let's not forget the contributions of Citizens for Choice and you, our supporters, in advancing access to education and healthcare, to contraception, abortion and choice. Our success last year in enacting a law to EXPAND access to safe and early abortion care in our state is truly worth celebrating. It stands in stark contrast to the 39 states that require that only licensed physicians perform abortions.

Yet, as we also celebrate the enactment of the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, on January 22, 1973, we cannot ignore that *Roe* and the rights of women to choose abortion -- and thus, to control their own lives and destinies -- remain at risk.

The fact is that other states continue to introduce regressive legislation, as many as 300 bills in 2013 alone, to subvert *Roe's* Constitutional protections. Outrageously, many often male-dominated legislatures have

succeeded in passing such bills. Twenty-two states enacted 70 abortion restrictions in 2013 alone. One well respected source, the Guttmacher Institute, now categorizes 27 states as "hostile to abortion rights" (based on their having at least four types of major abortion restrictions), only 13 as supportive of abortion rights and 10 somewhere in the middle. Worse, it found the trend to have worsened substantially since 2000. More than half of all women now live in states classified as hostile to their abortion rights.

For people concerned about women and their everyday lives, these statistics are alarming, because abortion restrictions affect real women and more women every day. Women increasingly find their options for pregnancy termination limited and their access to early, safe and affordable abortion care controlled and curtailed.

Seventeen states mandate that women be given "counseling" before an abortion that includes false or misleading information designed to discourage pregnancy termination; women in these states must hear about the purported link between abortion and breast cancer, the ability of a fetus to feel pain or the long-term mental health consequences that may result.

In Utah, a woman seeking an abortion must

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Kimberly D'Urso
Susan Fivelstad
Marlene Katz, PhD
Elaine Sierra
Crystal Cook
Aimée Murray
Deb Worth
Sharon O'Hara
Charlotte Cammon

receive state-mandated counseling and then wait 72 hours before the procedure. In Mississippi, she must travel hours to the sole clinic offering abortion care in that state. And, in 21 states, if the woman is under 18, she must seek a parent's consent. If she lives in Michigan, and believes she has private health insurance, she will soon learn that the state nevertheless prohibits abortion coverage unless her life is endangered. And, a woman in Wisconsin or Indiana seeking abortion must first undergo an ultrasound and listen to a detailed description of the image.

A recent trend has been to limit the availability of health care providers and facilities with needless laws and regulations, often under the guise of improving women's safety. Such "targeted regulation of abortion providers," or TRAP laws, often require abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital, mandate transfer agreements with hospitals or impose onerous structural requirements on clinics. Measures like these effectively give hospitals veto power over clinics' ability to provide services.

Anti-abortion legislators are growing bolder still. Two states enacted laws banning abortion early in pregnancy -- Arkansas at 12 weeks after a woman's last menstrual period and North Dakota after a fetal heartbeat is detected, or about six weeks after a woman's last menstrual period. Lawsuits have temporarily blocked enforcement while litigation proceeds. Perhaps most outrageous is an initiative that will be on the November 2014 ballot in North Dakota: it would ban abortion entirely by defining a person as a "human being at any stage of development."

In the midst of all these abortion restrictions, the promise of expanded access to insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is being thwarted. Except for the 17 states, like California, that themselves fund medically necessary abortions, public funding is available for abortion only in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest. Most states have similarly restricted coverage under private health plans in their health exchanges under Obamacare.

So, while we Californians may have more cause for celebration than most on January 22, we must still grieve for women throughout the US who are seeing their rights under Roe eroding. We must help to reverse this dangerous trend to deny women their rights and health access.

[NOTE: A more comprehensive overview of state laws prepared by the Guttmacher Institute is available at http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_OAL.pdf.]

▶▶ WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER ▶▶

Aimée Murray has lived in Nevada County since 1999. In 2005, Aimée launched Beeline Design, a sole-proprietor graphic design and marketing services based company in Nevada City. She is married and volunteers weekly for her daughter's 1st grade class. In addition to class assistance, she provides art docent instruction to the students once a month.

Aimée has dedicated much of her personal time towards keeping her finger on the pulse of reproductive freedoms. She is motivated by the need for our community to have a progressive clinic, which provides unbiased information to the public on a regular basis. Aimée is excited to assist Nevada County Citizens for Choice in meeting their goals for 2014 and years to come.



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Editor: Phyllis Orzalli
info@citizensforchoice.org

The Clinic!

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

Monday 10:30—5
Wednesday 11 – 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

800.714.8151

24/7 Women's Health Specialists

These folks were part of our Fall Fundraiser. We appreciate your support of Citizens for Choice' work for reproductive freedom!



►► CONDOM ART ►►

By Marlene Katz

Our latest fundraising effort included a condom tree. Definitely a clever piece of art work. A short article, titled Prophylactic Art, was published in In These Times, a publication (by Dawn Sharin) for the January 2014 edition. A self-taught artist in Thailand has addressed the issue of family planning and healthcare in that country. He has been trying to encourage safe-sex awareness, something that has not been a hot topic in Bangkok, for sure.

His art has been displayed in the restaurant Cabbages and Condoms which is an NGO. He is sure the food will not cause pregnancy. Condoms are given out as after dinner treats, like chocolate mints.

The art designs are made with out-of-date birth control pills and condoms. The items are displayed in everything from fake flowers to mannequins in condom dresses which are very colorful since he has used all the colors of the rainbow for condoms. There are also lamp shades, flower pots, wonderful hats, etc.

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He is sure that "someday people will be able to talk about condoms as well as cabbages" His belief is that HUMOR is important if you want people to hear you. Perhaps this could apply here as well and more of his type of art could be encouraged.

Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors whose generous donations were received between Oct. 25, 2013 to Feb 3, 2014.

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►► CITIZENS FOR CHOICE – JANUARY’S NON-PROFIT PARTNER FOR THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS ►►



This month Nevada County Citizens for Choice is proud to be the featured Non-Profit Partner at the Center for the Arts. The arts can serve as a platform to build awareness of the community's needs and to demonstrate responses to those needs. The Non-Profit Partnership Program allows us to showcase our organization's history, purpose, and goals for the coming year. We truly appreciate the generosity of the Center for the Arts for making this collaboration possible. See the photograph above: the table is set up and items plus photos are featured on it. The same images were used in a lobby digital kiosk display, and projected on a large screen before shows. Many thanks to those who took a moment to vote. You truly helped our presence expand here in Grass Valley.

See the article about us at: <http://thecenterforthearts.org/january-non-profit-partner-nevada-county-citizens-choice/>

► SUPREME COURT DECISION ►

The Supreme Court on Monday (Jan. 13) blocked Arizona from enforcing a ban on most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, in the latest blow for states that have tried to enact strict abortion laws.

The high court declined to hear an appeal from Arizona, leaving in place a prior ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that determined the law was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court decision effectively strikes down the law.

Gov. Jan Brewer signed the ban into law in April 2012. Nine other states have enacted similar bans starting at 20 weeks or even earlier.

But several of those bans had previously been placed on hold or struck down by other courts. The latest Supreme Court decision could further embolden opponents of those laws.

In its ruling, the federal appeals court said the law violates a woman's constitutionally protected right to terminate a pregnancy before a fetus is able to survive outside the womb. "Viability" of a fetus is generally considered to start at 24 weeks. Normal pregnancies run about 40 weeks.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said last year such bans violate a long string of Supreme Court rulings starting with the seminal *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973.

Read the complete article at <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/01/13/court-wont-revive-arizona-20-week-abortion-ban/>

Who Decides? The Status of Women's Reproductive Rights in the United States

Welcome to the 23rd edition of *Who Decides? The Status of Women's Reproductive Rights in the United States*. This report summarizes the state of women's access to reproductive-health care nationwide, including legislation enacted in 2013.

Who Decides? is the preeminent publication of choice-related state laws and legislative activity, and NARAL Pro-Choice America and NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation are the only organizations that provide up-to-the minute information about the enactment of new laws, and decisions handed down by state and federal courts related to reproductive rights. Our policy staff monitors state and federal activity on a daily basis, so please be sure to check our website for updates throughout the year.

- Dedication: This year's edition of *Who Decides?* is dedicated to the state legislators fighting every day to protect choice, and to the courageous activists who are on the front lines of the fight to protect reproductive choice.

- Key Findings: Pro-Choice Policy

Read more at <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/government-and-you/who-decides/#.UtiFMseW-xg.gmail>

ROE v. WADE

CELEBRATING 41 YEARS OF

CHOICE



People came to Ol' Republic Brewery to celebrate the 41st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade and talk about what the ruling meant to them. Come join us next year.



Baskets!

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

- Asylum Down
- Behind Closed Doors
- BriarPatch
- Cafe Mekka
- Classic Tattoo
- Common Goals
- CoRR (Community Recovery Resources)
- Dr. Wm. Durbrow, MD
- DVSAC
- Foggy Mountain Music
- Good Times Board Shop
- HAALo
- Ink Expressed Tattoo
- Dr. E. Lernhardt, MD
- The Mine Shaft
- Sierra Care Pediatrics, Grass Valley
- Sierra Care Physicians, Penn Valley
- Sierra College Health Services
- Sierra Family Medical Clinic
- Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters
- The Stone House
- Tribal Weaver
- Valentina's Bistro and Bakery
- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Services)



▶ TAKING RESPONSIBILITY -- HOW TITLE X MAKES FAMILY PLANNING COST-EFFECTIVE ▶

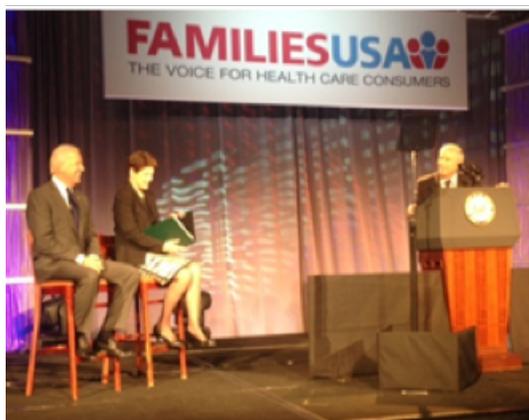
RMC (Republican Majority for Choice) Responds

...Unfortunately, many areas of the country still lack adequate access to preventive family planning services. Of the 37 million women in need of contraceptive care in 2010, 19.1 million were at an income level below 250% of the federal poverty level or were younger than 20. In many rural and low-income communities reproductive health clinics that receive public funding through Title X, the government's only family planning initiative, are women's only source for preventive reproductive healthcare. A common misconception is that contraceptives are inexpensive. But as we've discussed on this blog before, the initial cost of contraceptives, especially Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) such as IUDs and implants can reach up to one thousand dollars - and that is in addition to the cost of multiple doctor's visits. Birth control is not cheap. And low-income women have reported being forced to make a decision between providing for their families and covering the costs of another month of birth control pills.

Increasing access to preventive care through services like Title X is both effective and cost-efficient. A recent report from Guttmacher Reproductive Health Institute found that for every dollar spent on preventive healthcare for underprivileged communities in 2010, \$5.68 was saved in costs that would have been incurred by Medicaid. Such policies not only provide significant cost savings, but allow families to take responsibility for themselves, invest in their families' future and stop relying on government subsidies.

Excerpted from Republican Majority for Choice, "Voice for Choice" Blog , Oct. 17, 2013

▶▶ BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR TELLS THE VICE PRESIDENT HOW SHE GOT COVERED ▶▶



Kathy Stokes, seated next to Vice President Joe Biden, is invited to the podium by Families USA Director Ron Pollack

Kathy Stokes thought life was going her way. A mother of twins, she started her own business and had health insurance through her husband's job. Then, her marriage ended, she went on COBRA from her husband's policy and in 2012, "I found a lump on my breast."

The treatment for her cancer included a double mastectomy, plus intensive and costly

follow up, mostly covered by her health insurance. But her COBRA plan was due to expire on December 31, 2013. That's when she turned to the new health insurance options that became available October 1, under the Affordable Care Act.

"I'm here to say my new coverage began on January 1, 2014," she said today, as she took the stage at the national Families USA health reform conference in Washington, D.C. "I'm an Obamacare success story."

Her audience included Vice President Joe Biden, who was the morning's keynote speaker. "I hope women with breast cancer have a chance to hear your story," he said, giving her a big hug. Because of the Affordable Care Act, he said, women with breast cancer and other pre-existing conditions cannot be denied health coverage. Because of the ACA, he continued, women no longer can be charged 150 percent more than men for the same health policy.

"We will not go back!" Biden declared, to shouts of approval from the hundreds of health care advocates in the room. "America has turned the page."

<http://www.raisingwomensvoices.net/> From the January 2014 Newsletter.

Walking NYC Streets to Help Women Get Covered!

Adora Campis is a part-time bilingual (English and Spanish) outreach worker for Raising Women's Voices-NY. She will go pretty much anywhere to find uninsured women and families and tell them about the new health coverage options available through NY State of Health, NY's marketplace!

Earlier this week, she joined the annual Three King's Day parade through East Harlem to talk to uninsured people along the route in this neighborhood with many low-income, Spanish-speaking people. (She's in the red hat in the photo left, above). On Thursday, she spoke at the Health Care for All NY annual meeting in Albany about why she is so passionate about her work. We thought you'd find her words inspiring:

I'm sure you want to know about the faces of the uninsured that I have met in New York City. This much I know. From a homeless person at a soup kitchen starving for medical care, to a degree-holding woman facing loss of coverage and having to pay too much for COBRA – they want and are eager for affordable health care.

The timing is right. The uninsured are diverse and come from all walks of life. Some of them are people in between jobs, others are at jobs that have no health benefits. Some are recent college graduates, others are new citizens. Some have young kids, others are still kids themselves.

Sometimes they are people like me. I am a single mother and raised two children on my own. My son unexpectedly needed health care while he was in college.

Read the complete article at RaisingWomensVoices.net Friday, January 10, 2014 - blog

Citizens for Choice is a member organization of the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (CCRF), a statewide reproductive and sexual health, rights, and justice coalition of more than 30 independent organizations. We are partners with Women's Health Specialists for The Clinic!, our reproductive health care clinic in Grass Valley.

We want to hear from you! Share your story with us.

Perhaps you had a wonderful experience at The Clinic!, a history of advocating for reproductive rights, or a life altering insight about sex education as a parent. Your story may help others. Contact us at info@citizensforchoice.org.

Nevada County Citizens for Choice: Promoting reproductive justice through education, health care access and advocacy. We exist to inform and enable choice.

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

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