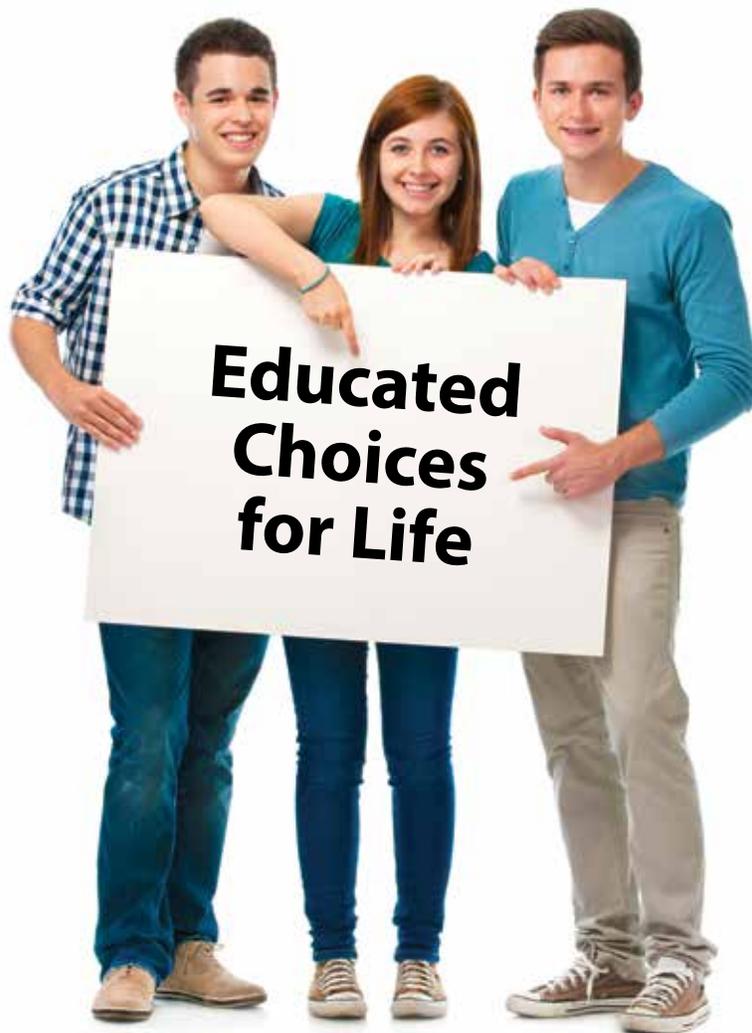




Voices for Choice

Winter 2016
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER By Kimberly D'Urso, President

Why Roe vs. Wade is Still Important

It's 2016. Why do we keep talking about the landmark Roe v. Wade decision? Don't we women have it the "best we've ever had it" when it comes to our reproductive rights? We won. Why can't we move on?

Roe v. Wade is relevant now because it serves as our national symbol for the protection of women's reproductive rights. Roe v. Wade was decided by the Supreme Court on January 22, 1973, 43 years ago. In a landmark 7-2 victory, the Supreme Court ruled that a woman had a right to privacy under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment which declared that her body was her business, not the government's.

Although 43 years ago we women won the right to choose what was right for our bodies, today many people would assert that Roe v. Wade is as relevant now as it was in 1973—maybe more so—because of the voluminous and unrelenting attacks on women's reproductive rights, starting in 2010, with the U.S. 2010 midterm elections.

Currently, certain conservative state lawmakers want to make a woman's body *their* business, taking away her right to make choices for herself. Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, and Oklahoma are the biggest offenders, having collectively adopted 94 restric-

tions on women's reproductive rights.

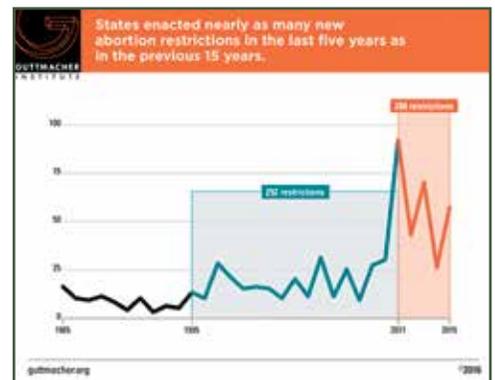
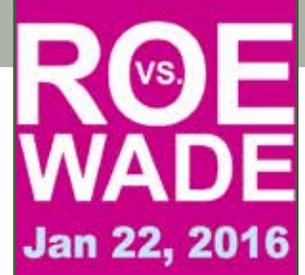
To be clear, 31 states have enacted at least 1 abortion restriction since 2010. 288 abortion restrictions have been adopted since the 2010 Midterm elections. If that's not shocking enough, states have adopted as many abortion restrictions during the last five years as during the previous 15 years. (*Guttmacher Institute) From limiting insurance coverage, to putting restrictions on providers, to requiring sonograms and counseling, to banning abortions altogether, injustices are being done to women across the U.S.

Women are being harassed and degraded and stripped of their reproductive rights with an alarming frequency and we must work hard to stop this and not repeat history, as in the days of back alley abortions and unnecessary risks.

We can stop this assault on women by showing up and standing up for our fellow women. Abortion is a legal right. Let us educate others about Roe v. Wade and why it is so important, especially today. My body. My choice.

Best—Kimberly D'Urso, President

*Guttmacher Institute http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/updates/2015/statetrends42015.html?utm_source=Master+List&utm_campaign=0b8004c385-NIC_2015_State_Trends1_4_16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9ac83dc920-0b8004c385-244278157



E-scrip Contributions—They Really Help!

Last year's contributions through November were \$650 dollars, just at SPD, based on 3 per cent of your purchases.

Contributions may be made to Citizens for Choice through e-scrip at **Safeway, Save-Mart, and SPD Market.**

Inquire with your favorite store for an application or go online to update your current donation selections. Use your card every time you shop and escrip donates based on your total—it's free and costs you nothing! We will acknowledge such sponsorship by listing donors to e-scrip in the Voices Newsletter. Your help will continue to support our work and keep the Clinic open.

—Thank you! It Works!



PUBLIC POLICY By Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Chair

CA Reproductive Health and Justice Bills:



WOMEN'S HEALTH BILLS PASS CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

During 2015, Citizens for Choice championed bills promoting reproductive health and access, both at the state and federal level. After the close of the legislative session in California, we can report that our pro-women, pro-health and -justice positions have been mostly successful. (The situation in our increasingly fractious Congress has not been so hospitable to our concerns.)

Let's take a look at a few bills that have become law that were our highest advocacy priorities.

One bill makes comprehensive, fact-based sex education mandatory in public schools (AB 329). It has the potential to correct the absence of essential sexual health education in the majority of our middle and high schools, and update curriculum requirements in light of current medical knowledge. For the first time, students in grades 7-12 could all receive the knowledge neces-

sary to protect themselves and reduce their risks from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV, and sexual exploitation. At the same time, comprehensive sex ed would foster the development of healthy attitudes and relationships.

A second bill requires that crisis pregnancy centers disclose to women seeking their services if they (CPCs) are not licensed medical clinics or do not have licensed medical care providers on staff (AB 775). CPCs and other facilities offering pregnancy-related services would also need to advise women of their reproductive health rights, that is, their legally protected options to use birth control, bear a child or have an abortion. Further, pregnancy-related clinics would be required to provide information on health insurance that might be available to make needed reproductive health services affordable for lower-income individuals, with a contact phone number. More women would get the information needed on how to get care for all pregnancy options. Most CPCs have been shown to be deceptive anti-abortion, religiously based organizations offering little or no actual health care to pregnant women other than pregnancy tests. Several lawsuits have been pursued to stop this important disclosure law from going into effect, but, so far, none have been successful.

Other bills that we are supporting have also passed in the legislature. They would require schools to accommodate students who are breastfeeding their infants (AB 302); and extend health coverage to youth who are undocumented California citizens (SB 4).



THANK YOU!

On behalf of the entire Board at Citizens for Choice, we would like to use this opportunity to recognize and give our thanks to Elaine Sierra for her continued dedication to our organization providing reproductive rights and representation.
—Thank you!

More detailed Information on all the California and federal bills on which we have taken positions is posted on our website, at: www.citizensforchoice.org/home/policy-activism/

We encourage you to use the site to stay informed on key legislation that we are working on to promote reproductive health, rights and justice.

Stay Informed!

All your Reproductive 2016 Legislation in one location!

To keep up on public policy visit:
www.citizensforchoice.org/home/policy-activism/

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Board Position Open-Secretary

We are sad to see Crystal go. Crystal played a crucial role on our Board for several years as our Secretary as well as helping with website support. We will miss you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

The Secretary responsibilities include:

- Notices duly given in accordance to bylaws
- Record, reproduce and distribute meeting minutes
- Custodian of records of the corporation overseeing authorized signatures

If you, or someone you know would be interested in filling the seat on our volunteer board, please contact us! info@citizensforchoice.org.

CHINA'S ONE CHILD POLICY By Marlene Katz, Donor Relations

Abortion is not a crime. . . in China. As a part of population control, it was not: nor is it now. The Cultural Revolution made sure it was used.

China's new policy on the number of children per family has gone into effect to permit two children. The old policy of one child was in effect for over 30 years under Mao. Heavy fines existed if there was a second child, a little over 30,000 dollars. And, of course, boy children were most valued and that caused a serious sex-ratio imbalance.

Fox Butterfield of Harvard wrote a book in the 80's concerning population control. He reported that the contraception police were on each floor of an apartment building to detect women who did not have a period and report them. Abortion was then in order if it was to be a second child. Some ethnic cultures were not required to have abortions, but could have several children. Rural communities were also exempt.

Prior to the only-one-child policy, when births of four or more children were encouraged, the government declared that the births brought famine and many food shortages.

As the one-child policy prevailed, it did bring about some hardships to families. The children became very spoiled and indulged by the multiple relatives who would provide untold numbers of gifts and treats. Some extended families involved 20 or more relatives all kowtowing to one child. We talked to numerous families where this was the case when we visited with parents while we were in China. It proved to be very difficult to say no to some of the family members.

As a result of the one-child policy, the number of abortions was stated to be 400 million by the government. The U. S. had only 50 million from 1973 on. However, some people question this number. Sterilizations and insertion of IUDs were in the millions in China from 1970's on. As a result, China has an aging population, a lack of girl children since many were adopted to other countries, decreased population, and sex ratio imbalance with boys in the majority. There were economic disadvantages, too.

Improvements in women's health did increase, not the least of which was a decrease in deaths during pregnancy. However, one of the cautions the government has been handed by others who know about these things, there will likely be hundreds of millions of babies born in the near future, which will likely strain many services.

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Thank you!

You help us provide services at *The Clinic!*, education programs like *Know It & Own It*, and advocacy for us all.

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