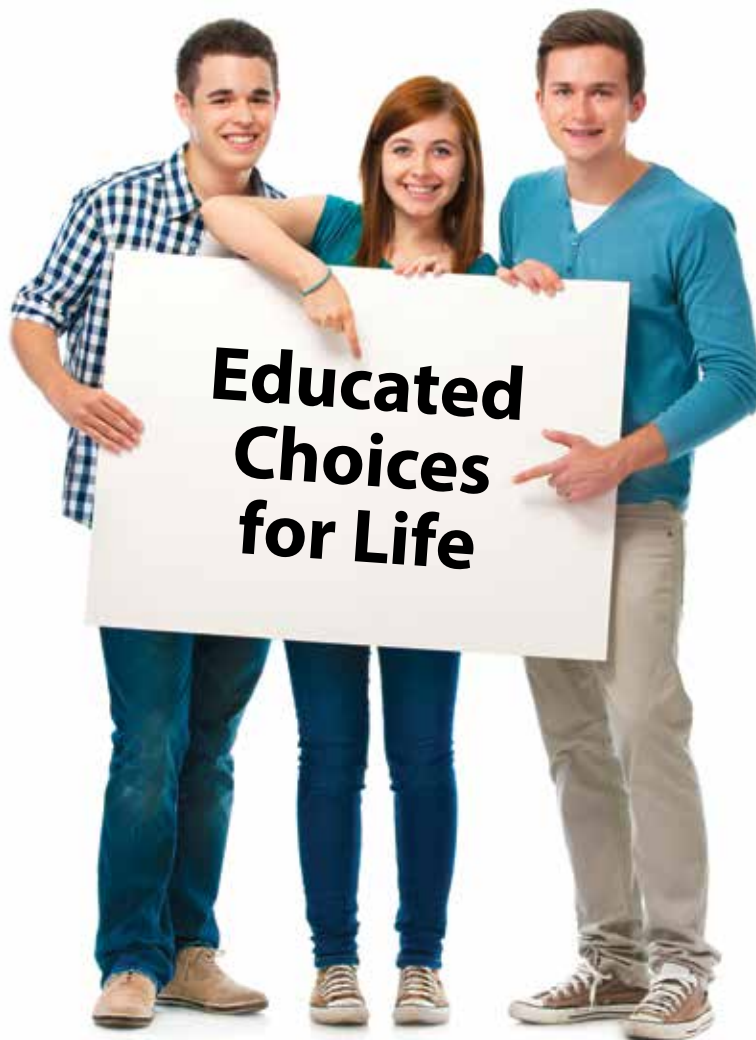




# Voices for Choice

**Summer 2016**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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

# Voices for Choice

SUMMER 2016 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER By Kimberly D'Urso, President

### The California Healthy Youth Act

# SEX *education*

This fall, students returning to school in California will be presented with an updated comprehensive sex education program. The California Healthy Youth Act (AB 329), a state-mandated local program, requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7-12, inclusive, receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. This bill updates and strengthens existing requirements ensuring that all students receive consistent, unbiased, factual information about preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Why was this new law necessary? According to Phyllida Burlingame, Reproductive Justice Policy Director with the ACLU of Northern California, a survey of school districts conducted by UCSF, found that many

schools were failing to meet the needs of young people by providing insufficient or, at times, inaccurate information about reproductive health.

The Positive Prevention curriculum will support teachers and school districts by providing a concise, structured program and it supports the overwhelming majority of parents who want their children to receive comprehensive instruction – including information about contraception efficacy and the benefits of delaying sexual activity. With STIs present in two-thirds of people under the age of 25, it is imperative that we provide the resources needed to educate our youth about their bodies and how best to maintain their health.

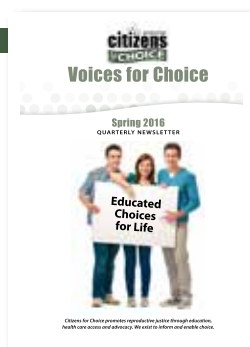
Did you know that: 50 percent of the student population is sexually active. 25-40 percent of high school students will have an STI within their high school career. Local high school data: 167-300 students will have had an STI (25-40 percent); 117-210 do not know they are infected. 60 percent use condoms, on average. (Stats from a Positive Prevention curriculum training.)

Citizens for Choice is proud to have played a direct role by serving on the committee and assisting the Nevada County Super-

intendent of Schools in developing and adopting the approved curriculum. This experience has also allowed us to redesign our program, Know It & Own it—a supplemental presentation in alignment with the new curriculum—which goes even further, focusing on the dangers of sexting, social media risks, and boundaries of consent.

Comprehensive sex education works to reduce negative outcomes from risky sexual behavior, while also aiming to contribute to young people's positive experience of their sexuality. When young adults are able to quantify the quality of their relationships, their ability to make informed decisions over their lifetime is paramount to their success in adulthood.

The California Healthy Youth Act curriculum will present factual science-based information which is medical accurate and age appropriate, supporting the purpose of this law. The content is intentionally inclusive of all races, genders, sexual orientation, students with disabilities and English learners. Please contact Kimberly at [kimberly.c4c@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.c4c@gmail.com) for more information or with questions.



### Go Green!

Are you still getting the Newsletter on paper? in black-and-white? Would you be happier with the e-mail, full color Newsletter? Email us with the subject "go green" and we'll remove you from snail mail and add you to our eblast

list instead. And as always our newsletter is published and accessible from our website each quarter.



### Please continue to shop and add us to your escrip!

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Inquire with your favorite store for an application or go online [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to update your current donation. Use your card every time you shop and escrip donates based on your total—it's free and costs you nothing!

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# Voices for Choice

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## PUBLIC POLICY By Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Chair

### CALIFORNIA BILLS ADVANCING EQUITY AND HEALTH ACCESS

This year, Citizens for Choice is following and advocating for a number of California bills that promote reproductive health and access. We can report significant successes in this legislative session. Let's take a look at a few items that have been our highest advocacy priorities.

Chief among them is one that promotes opportunity and fairness for women and their families – the repeal of the Maximum Family Grant rule. The rule excludes benefits for children born into families receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) assistance. Exemptions to the MFG rule included a child conceived as a result of incest, rape or the failure of an "approved" contraceptive. Mothers were required to prove that the exception applied, necessitating an intrusive inquiry into their reproductive autonomy and privacy. Our organization supported several bills aimed at repealing the MFG rule, an early version introduced in 2014 (SB 899), and one that stalled in 2015 (SB 23). Our

persistence paid off. This year, repeal of the MFG rule was accomplished by adding it to a budget bill (AB 1603).

Several bills aimed at expanding access to contraceptives are pending in a fiscal committee – the last step before going to the California Senate or Assembly for final passage. One bill authorizes pharmacists to dispense a year's supply of hormonal birth control at one time, and requires insurance to pay for it (SB 999). Another prohibits health insurance plans from requiring a referral or approval prior to a woman's getting health care coverage or services for reproductive and sexual health (AB 1954).

More detailed information on the California bills on which we have taken positions is posted on our website, at [citizensforchoice.org](http://citizensforchoice.org). Use the site to stay informed about the status of legislation we are advocating for or against. Thank you, everyone, for supporting our efforts to promote reproductive health, rights and justice.

Thank all of you activists for choice for your support!  
Elaine Sierra



## FOR CHOICE!

### Stay Informed!

All your Reproductive 2016 Legislation in one location!

To keep up on public policy visit:  
[www.citizensforchoice.org/home/policy-activism/](http://www.citizensforchoice.org/home/policy-activism/)

## CURRENT BILLS, LAWS & LEGISLATION



### PROPOSED BILLS WE SUPPORT:

- AB 1760 Safe Harbor for Trafficked Children
- AB 1761 Human Trafficking Victims Affirmative Defense
- AB 1762 Vacating Convictions of Human Trafficking Victims
- AB 1954 Direct Access to Reproductive Health Act
- SB 10 Providing Californian Immigrants Access to Covered California
- SB 23 Repeal of Maximum Family Grant rule for CalWORKS.
- SB 999 12-month supply of birth control pills
- SB 1014 Pregnant and parenting pupil rights

### CALIFORNIA LAWS TO BE IMPLEMENTED:

- AB 329 California Healthy Youth Act (sex education)
- AB 775 Reproductive FACT (Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care, and Transparency) Act (CPC required disclosures)

### FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

- HR 1974 Health Equity & Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women & Families Act.
- HR 2972 Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act

## POSITIONS OPEN ON OUR BOARD!

Please contact us if you are interested in joining our valuable team of board members. We are an all volunteer board with a vested interest in equality, reproductive justice and ensuring that the people in our community have access to reproductive health care in a safe, private and unbiased environment. Please email us at: [info@citizensforchoice.org](mailto:info@citizensforchoice.org) and tell us about yourself!

### 2016 VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT                    | Kimberly D'Urso ~ <a href="mailto:kimberly.c4c@gmail.com">kimberly.c4c@gmail.com</a>    |
| VICE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATOR | POSITION OPEN!  |
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Citizens for Choice

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## NEWS | UPDATES



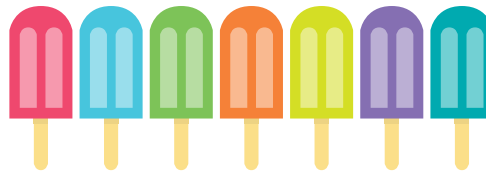
### We have new condom basket locations!

Gary's and Nevada Club in Grass Valley; Crazy Horse, McGees, Coopers, and Grateful Tattoo in Nevada City. We are making a

push into the local bars due to a new volunteer—thank you! Come see us at the Thursday Night Market until the 28th of July. We are in front of the Holbrooke Hotel.

### Fall Fundraiser

Information will be coming soon! The Fall Fundraiser helps make Know It & Own It available to Nevada County, keeps The Clinic! doors open, and helps Citizens for Choice be available to Nevada County's residents. Look for us.



### Clinic Open House

Please join us at our Clinic Open House August 18th, from 5:00-7:00 pm. Please rsvp to: [info@citizensforchoice.org](mailto:info@citizensforchoice.org)

## VIEWPOINT

Reviewed by Marlene Katz, Donor Relations

**THE BAD-ASS LIBRARIANS OF TIMBUCTU** and their race to save the world's most precious manuscripts by Joshua Hammer.

Timbuctu, Mali, in the 16th century, had a population of 100,000 people. It was a seat of learning, a thriving international center for centuries drawing scholars from many regions to discuss science, history, and philosophy. Among the attractions have been 25 libraries housing these ancient manuscripts. Today, with the jihadists gone, it has many hotels and attractions.

Haidera, the major archivist of the manuscripts, was from a family in Mali that ran an informal university because the father was such a scholar. With a family of 12 children, the father insisted that Haidera become the keeper of the thousands of manuscripts locked away in their home. As the major librarian, Haidera received much support from the U S and other countries. He saved over 377,000 volumes of Arabic texts from extreme censorship and burnings of manuscripts by the extremists. To acquire many manuscripts, Haidera traveled on foot, by camel, and by canoe and ferries to reach back areas of Mali. Hundreds of manuscripts had been hidden by families in caves and in locked safes.

Many of the ancient manuscripts included works about mathematics, astronomy, geography, physics, ethics, and discussions of other open-minded issues. Along came closed-minded jihadis. The jihadis really censored everything. It was a dismal life style, centered on worship as they thought it should be. They even cancelled a very important music festival that WAS the most-important Malian musicians drawing people from all over the world to attend.

A fascinating nonfiction book about cultural heritage and intellectual enlightenment.

Hammer is a contributing editor to Smithsonian Magazine and Outside. He has made numerous trips to Timbuctu.

## DONORS

Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors whose generosity was received Summer 2016

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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.



At *The Clinic!* your sexual and reproductive health is *always* your choice.

Mondays 10:30-5:00  
Wednesdays 11:00-6:00  
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