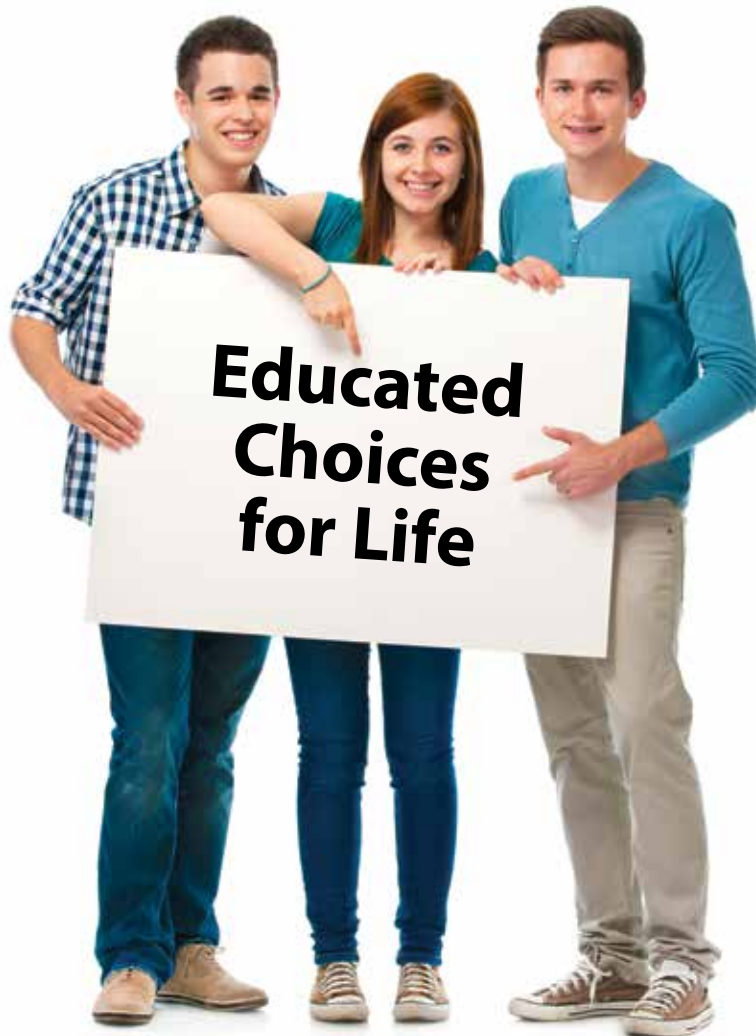




Voices for Choice

Summer 2018
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 2018 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Supreme Court Rules Against CA Law

The Supreme Court this week ruled against California law, condoning non-medical facilities that lure pregnant women to fake clinics that promise options but provide only lies and misinformation. Often called "crisis pregnancy centers," these facilities offer pregnancy testing, but virtually no medical care and no referrals to legitimate women's health clinics or other providers of pregnancy care. Instead, they expose "clients" to religiously based moralizing aimed at dissuading women from considering all their reproductive options, even including birth control.

In 2015, California enacted the Reproductive FACT Act, to require pseudo-clinics to disclose the truth about their operations and to refer women to legal comprehensive medical services. It required facilities to inform their "clients"- mostly lower income women - of California's public programs for free or low-cost comprehensive family planning services, prenatal care, and abortion. Importantly, facilities not licensed by the state as medical facilities needed to notify their clients of that fact.

This 5-4 ruling is especially harmful to low-income women in rural towns

like ours. The Court's decision tragically legitimizes the use of deceptive tactics, allowing fake clinics to use 'made-up science' to steer women away from the care they seek. How tragic that women with limited resources will now continue receiving dangerously inaccurate information about their medical conditions.

Here in Nevada County, we have a genuine reproductive health clinic, staffed and overseen by medical professionals provided by Women's Health Specialists and sustained by community partner Nevada County Citizens for Choice (C4C). The Clinic is low-cost or free to all. Community residents often end up at the Clinic after being directed by misleading advertising to our local fake clinic and consequently being frustrated in their attempts to gain medical information and care.

Of the over 230 fake clinics in CA, nearly 30% are located in rural California; that already means barriers in transportation, cost, time and specialty care. Shockingly, 93% of California counties have fake clinics, yet most do not have access to medically-accurate reproductive health care .



(L) Elaine Sierra, Director of Public Policy, Nevada County Citizens for Choice

(R) Lynn Wenzel, Chair Public Relations, Nevada County Citizens for Choice; Member Indivisible Women of NevadaCounty/Women's Rights

We in western Nevada County are fortunate that we do have a real reproductive health clinic. And, we believe it is just plain wrong to allow fake clinics to lawfully deceive low-income women, youth and people living in rural communities across the state. Citizens for Choice and Indivisible Women of Nevada County/Women's Rights Subgroup will not be silenced. We intend to stand up for the right of all citizens to, at a minimum, access timely, legal and accurate reproductive health care.

Please join us for a popsicle and guided tour of *The Clinic!*



Save the Date!

Tuesday, July 31, 2018  4-7:00 p.m.



120 Richardson Street, Suite A,
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530-274-3331
No R.S.V.P. just come on by!

PUBLIC POLICY By Elaine Sierra

Reproductive Health and Rights: California Leads

We at Citizens for Choice continue our passionate advocacy for greater access to reproductive health and greater protections for reproductive rights. In these times, especially, a woman's right to choose whether and when to bring a child into this world needs to be honored and protected. The U.S. Constitution's protection of a woman's choice to terminate her own pregnancy, as set forth in *Roe v. Wade*, may itself be on the line, given the likelihood of an anti-abortion Supreme Court appointment by President Trump.

The open hostility of many legislators to women's autonomy can be seen in the tidal wave of anti-abortion, anti-abortion-providers, anti-family-planning and anti-birth-control laws and policies we now face. At the national level, measures to defund Planned Parenthood and to gut family planning resources aimed at lower income women—Title X—are ongoing, both by Congress and by the current administration. And, the Supreme Court decided in favor of crisis pregnancy centers, saying that their the First Amendment rights barred a California law that would have protected women's right to be informed of the availability elsewhere of services (including abortion services) not offered by CPCs. These anti-abortion facilities are generally religiously

based, but pose as real clinics, falsely offering a full range of pregnancy options. So, we are even more grateful for the pro-woman advances we see in California. The prospects for our top priority bills to enhance choice and reproductive health in our state are very good.

Chief among them is one that would enable more college and university students to access safe, early medication abortion at their campus health centers (SB 320). The required access would apply to students up to 10 weeks of pregnancy, enrolled at the University of California or California State University. The bill is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, its final hurdle before final passage through an Assembly floor vote.

Other bills we support are at a similar legislative stage and poised to become California law. One would expand access to reproductive health services by enabling insurance coverage for those services delivered through telemedicine, i.e., mobile technologies such as video and smartphone applications (SB 1023). Another would require comprehensive sexual health education by charter schools, which serve 10% of California's student population (AB 2601).

Yet another major advance in the making



is a groundbreaking proposal that would compensate survivors of state-coerced sterilization under CA eugenic laws of 1909-1979 (SB 1190). If it passes, we will be working to secure funding for compensating survivors next year.

On the budget front, we were successful in securing additional funding in support of sex education and for addressing STI/STD prevention.

We thank those of you who join us in our legislative advocacy mission. We need your continuing support, either through joining our advocacy efforts or supporting us with your donations. Check our Facebook page and website to keep up to date about the status of our efforts, and to learn how you might help.

Condom Locations


Asylum Down | Behind Closed Doors Fantasy Boutique | BriarPatch Co-op | Classic Tattoo | Common Goals | Coopers | CoRR
 Crazy Horse Saloon and Grill | Foggy Mountain Music | FoxHound Espresso & Coffee Roaster | Gary's Place Saloon
 Goodtimes Boardstore | Grateful Ink Tattoo | HAALo | Ink Expressed Tattoo | Dr. E. Lernhardt, MD (PV) | McGees
 Mine Shaft Saloon | The Open Book | Sierra Care Pediatrics (GV) | Sierra Care Physicians (PV) | Sierra College Health Services
 Sierra Family Medical Clinic (NSJ) | Spirit Farmer Acupuncture | Tribal Weaver
 Valentina's Organic Bistro and Bakery | WIC

Our website newsletter offers more! www.citizensforchoice.org

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Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors whose generosity was received.

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Thank you!

You help us provide services at *The Clinic!*, education programs and advocacy for us all.



E-scrip Contributions –They Really Help!

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



Amazon Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to Nevada County Citizens for Choice. When you #StartWithaSmile, Amazon donates to Nevada County Citizens for Choice. Shop for great deals at smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0479729

STDs on the rise in California and in Nevada County

Submitted to *The Union*, June 20, 2018

The California Department of Public Health recently noted another in a string of record years for cases of sexually transmitted diseases, the Nevada County Department of Public Health stated in a press release Wednesday.

"We are clearly moving in the wrong direction," said Dr. Ken Cutler, the Nevada County Public Health Officer. "In 2012 we received 13 reports of gonorrhea, last year about 60."

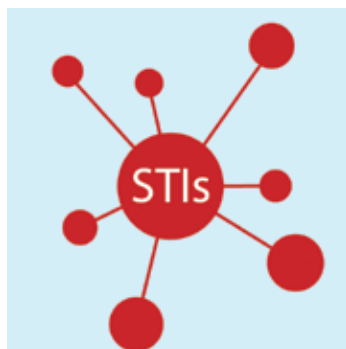
Nevada County STD rates are still below the California average, but are rising faster. At the state level, the rise in congenital syphilis — babies being born with the disease because the mother's infection passed through the placenta — is especially concerning. Congenital syphilis in California more than quadrupled in five years. "Fortunately, we have not had a report of a baby born with syphilis in Nevada County for years, but given the current trend that could easily change," Cutler said.

The reasons for the increases in STDs locally, statewide and nationally has been an area of intense study and some speculation. Possibilities include the decrease in fear of HIV infections, the increase use of social dating

apps for sexual connections that can make partner notification challenging, and the closure nationally of many STD clinics. In some places, an increase in testing could also be contributing to more identification of infections.

STDs are preventable with the consistent use of condoms, and many STDs can be cured with antibiotics. Most people with a sexually transmitted infection have no

symptoms and do not know they have it. That makes it important for people who are sexually active to talk with their medical provider about regular testing.



Show your support and visit our booth weekly!

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exercise of
illumination
for body, mind & soul.
slow & intentional
the prophylactics
provide the barrier
that maintains our
sovereignty in
the heat of oneness.

W C

THE
Clinic!

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

Mondays 11:00-4:00
Wednesdays 11:00-4:00
530-521-3273 The Clinic!

120 Richardson St. Suite A, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Women's Health Specialists 800-714-8151 ~ 24/7

You are the “i” in **CHOICE**



Outrage. Fear. Paralysis.

The past 18 months have been an assault on our collective values, our lives, and our loved ones, and it feels as if this month of June has taken things to a boiling point.

If we haven't already been shocked, disheartened, and compelled to action by the traumatic separation and imprisonment of families at the border, we've also had to experience the disastrous Supreme Court decisions that are destroying many of the fundamental protections that we value most highly – voting rights, worker's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights and, chillingly, reproductive freedom. While we celebrate the passage of SB320 (Student Right To Access) through the Assembly Higher Education Committee in Sacramento, how can we not simultaneously reel at the rulings this week and the way our country continues to uphold bigotry, Islamophobia, sexism, racial prejudice and discrimination?

It's unfathomable, yet somehow true, that with Justice Kennedy's imminent retirement, the Supreme Court is now positioned to swing even further to the right. This is a balance that would not only deeply imperil *Roe v. Wade*, but also

disrupt the march of progressive judicial oversight in so many arenas that are crucial for us and for generations to come.

We cannot accept the dismemberment of our democracy. We do not get up every day to work, to talk, to share, to gather, to love, to believe, to fight so that bigotry and hatred can prevail. We will not accept the rantings of illegitimate, heartless, leaders who care more about demagoguery and power than the people they were elected to serve. We will resist.

So, what do we do?

As tired, fearful, and overwhelmed as these assaults on our liberty and justice may make us feel, we need to remember that we have seen these days before. And we will persevere. Those of us impacted by gender-based violence—and those of us who are also people of color, queer, and/or immigrants—are stepping into our power. Across the country, we are becoming involved in civic life, we are running for (and winning) office, learning and teaching about the issues, challenging prejudice and discrimination, and defending the communities to which we belong and are allied with.

All of this we must continue and amplify. We must support organizations that are on the ground fighting against exclusionary and xenophobic policies. We must support and invest in gender, racial, and economic justice so that we can build and sustain the networks, knowledge, and infrastructure that will see our movement through to a brighter day.

We must believe in the possibility of that brighter day – and we must walk towards it, fists in the air if needed. We will not give up in the face of threat. Our communities are resilient and powerful.

In solidarity,

Surina Khan
CEO | Women's Foundation of California

the **WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
of CALIFORNIA**

Help us keep services available at the Clinic!

As Citizens for Choice (C4C) marks its 29th year of reproductive health services and 12th year since the opening of The Clinic!, reproductive rights are threatened now more than ever. On May 18, 2018, the Trump administration issued an executive order that would strip funding from clinics that even mention the word abortion, effectively ending rights under Title X. Women's Health Specialists (WHS) who provide medical services for the Clinic! such as STD and HIV testing, birth control, pap tests, and wellness exams may now be stripped of funding and their medical services terminated.

Additionally, Congress has proposed an alarming rule to expand short-term health insurance plans. This means in California, the 2019 premium for ACA-compliant coverage, now \$5,521, will rise 17.40% to \$6,504. Most Clinic! clients use Medicaid and FAMPACT, which comes from Title X, to pay for health care. Without the Clinic!, where will they go?

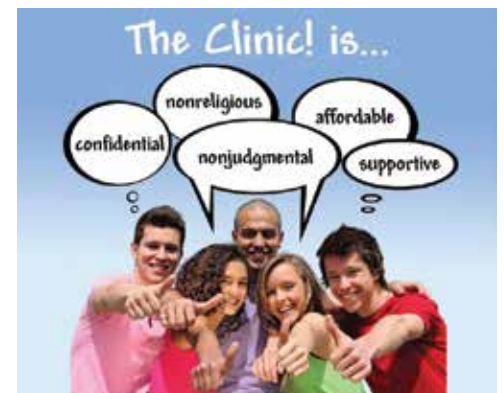
Now comes another threat. After hitting a record high for the third year in a row, California now ranks first in the country for the most cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea

and syphilis! Between 2015 and 2016, the syphilis rate among women of reproductive age increased by 50% and over half of all STDs in the state occur among youth ages 15-24 years old. To address this crisis, WHS is working closely with Dr. Ken Cutler of the Nevada County Public Health Department to gather information and resources for screening and treatment guidelines and to provide a broad spectrum of treatments for all STDs. Now the House of Representatives has voted to support a drastic cut in the CDC's budget for STD prevention. As you can see, C4C and the Clinic! are even more essential.

Currently, it is looking like the Senate will confirm President Trump's nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, to the Supreme Court, changing the balance that barely kept *Roe v. Wade* intact to a majority who intend to overturn it. We don't have to tell you what a disaster this will be. Right now, we need your support more than ever.

Our dream is a community and world that work together to empower and honor individual choice. In the current climate, that dream is perilously in danger. The Clinic's expert medical staff, and C4C's

online resources, educational programs, and expansive library of information come at a cost. The Clinic! served 22,341 clients through 2017. We provided the safety net for women, men, and teens in need of low-cost or no-cost unbiased, confidential, and compassionate healthcare in rural western Nevada County. Now, with ever-increasing threats, Citizens for Choice and the Clinic! stand between access to reproductive healthcare for those who cannot afford it, and none whatsoever. Please give generously and help us survive.



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.*