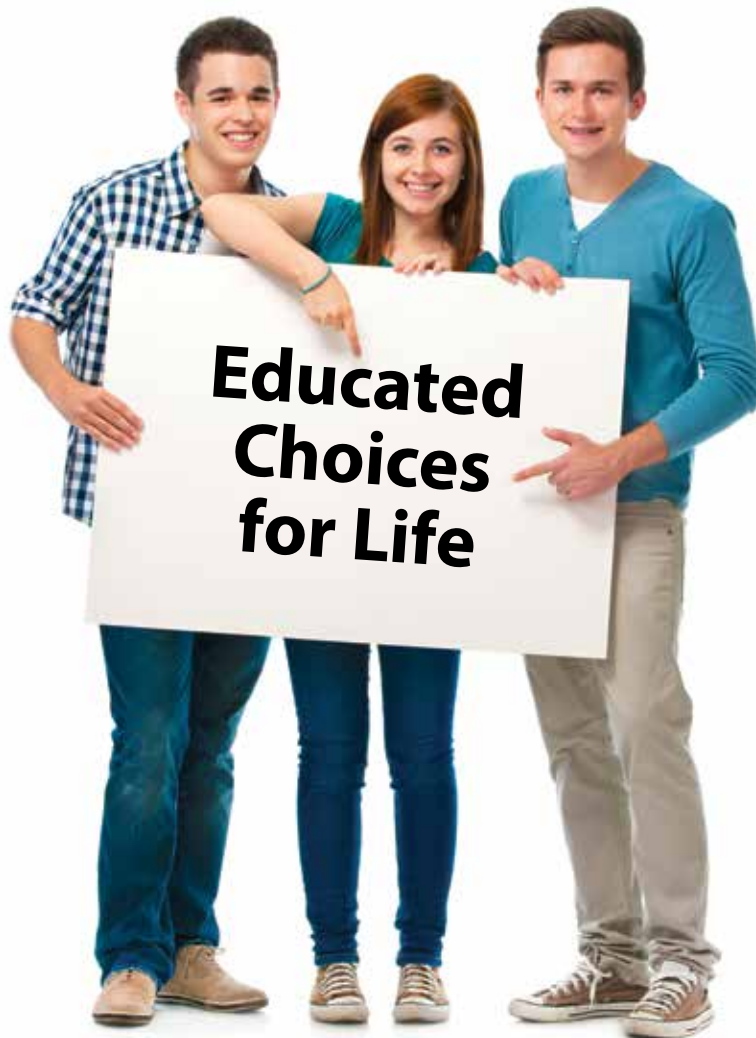




# Voices for Choice

**Fall 2015**

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

FALL 2015 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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

### 2015 —A Proactive Year!

Happy Fall to all of our Citizens for Choice Champions ~

Have you been wondering what we've been up to in 2015?

Because of YOU, our commitment to keeping The Clinic open another year has been achieved. This year alone, The Clinic has provided over 21,000 services.

We're also happy to announce that our "Know It & Own It" program is now active and supported by three certified health workers. The recent presentation to NEO was a rewarding experience. Participants responded positively. To set up a presen-

tation, please contact Citizens for Choice: info@citizensforchoice.org for further information. We want to get the word out and would appreciate your effort in that.

Our collaboration with the NC Superintendent of Schools to provide a unified comprehensive sex-ed curriculum that will be presented to all districts, grades 6 through high school, has made great progress this year. Because of our collective work with other groups, we are ready to send out a parent questionnaire, vetting possible sex-ed topics.

Lastly, we are inspired that our focus on comprehensive sex-ed focus has received

the support of California Governor Jerry Brown, in that he just recently signed bill AB 329, which requires comprehensive sex education in all California public schools. Under current CA law, sex ed is permissible, but not required.

Please accept my sincere gratitude for your role in our successes this year. Please consider a generous donation to ensure our work in 2016. [www.citizensforchoice.org](http://www.citizensforchoice.org)

Together we are Citizens for Choice,  
Kimberly D'Urso, President

This year's Fall Fundraiser event at the Nevada Theatre is our way of saying **thank you** to all of our loyal supporters—with an award-winning documentary, "Sister" by Brenda Davis.

*"Sister tells the story of health workers from Ethiopia, Cambodia and Haiti, exploring how they find meaning while working under difficult circumstances and revealing maternal and newborn death as a human rights issue.*

*An intimate portrait of a global crisis woven from indigenous scenery and vérité footage, Sister captures colors, sights and sounds while exploring dedicated health workers and those in their care through intense and beautiful moments.*

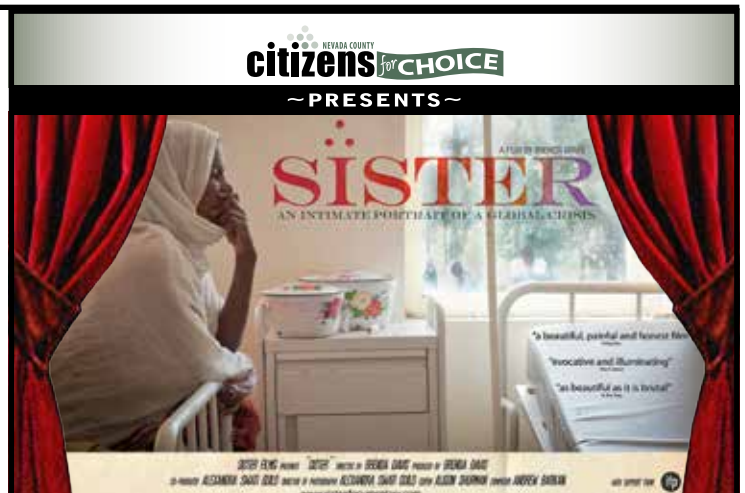
*Goitom Berhane, a charismatic Ethiopian health officer in residency in a Masters of Surgery and Obstetrics Program at a rural hospital. Pum Mach, a direct but gentle rural midwife living and working within a heavily land mined area of Cambodia. And Madam Bwa, a captivating Haitian midwife, herself fighting poverty, working in a volatile, densely populated urban area.*

*Their stories reveal strategies in place to improve maternal health and address the crisis in maternal and newborn mortality to show when the strategies work, when they don't work and how the lack of transport, communication and education create weak links along the way.*

*These are some of the stories behind the statistics."*

#### To Donate:

Paypal: [www.citizensforchoice.org/home/why-donate/](http://www.citizensforchoice.org/home/why-donate/)  
Check: PO Box 3525, Grass Valley, CA 95945



### Unable to attend?

**Please consider a donation to Citizens for Choice.**

Your contribution helps to:

- Keep doors open at *The Clinic!* in Grass Valley
- Purchase condoms for our condom fairies
- Support your voice in policy and advocacy on health related legislation
- Maintain the "Know it & Own it" Sex Education Program
- Grant funds for Certified Health Worker training. Ensure that we have the staff necessary to deliver comprehensive sex education in our schools, private groups, clubs and individuals.



## PUBLIC POLICY By Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Chair

### CA Reproductive Health and Justice Bills:

#### **SIGNED! By Governor Brown**

##### **AB 329 California Healthy Youth Act (sex education)**

Promotes the health of California youth by mandating sexual health education in public schools, integrated into the current HIV/AIDS prevention education mandate. The bill will strengthen existing law to ensure that students receive both HIV prevention education and comprehensive sex education that is medically accurate, objective and unbiased, in grades 7 – 12 (at least once in junior high or middle school and once in high school). It authorizes optional age appropriate instruction in lower grades, as well. It will update outdated information and bolster existing requirements.



##### **AB 775 Reproductive FACT (Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care, and Transparency) Act (CPC required disclosures)**

Requires certain licensed providers of pregnancy-related services to provide specific information (by posting or distributing) to those served about their reproductive health rights, including:

- (1) rights under the Reproductive Privacy Act to use birth control, bear a child or have an abortion; and
- (2) health insurance coverage of reproductive health services for lower-income individuals, with a contact phone number.

Further requires unlicensed providers of pregnancy-related services to clearly post and include in their advertising a statement that they are not medical facilities licensed by the state of California and do not have a licensed medical provider on staff.

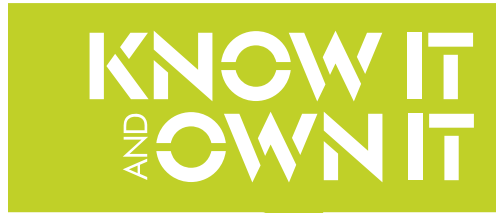
The bill aims to ensure that California women receive the information they need to make well-informed decisions regarding their pregnancy options and obtain the care

they need. One reason the bill is needed is to make prospective and current clients of crisis pregnancy centers aware that the centers are not medical facilities, are not licensed, and do not provide prenatal care or comprehensive reproductive healthcare or referrals. Noncompliance by either type of facility is subject to fines: \$500 for the first violation if not corrected within 30 days, and \$1,000 for subsequent offenses.



##### **AB 302 Student Lactation Accommodations**

Requires that schools with at least one lactating student provide reasonable accommodations to breastfeeding students on school campuses. Such accommodations must include access to a private, secure room to breastfeed or express milk.



**SEX**  
*education*

#### **ADDITIONAL 2015 LEGISLATION:**

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

#### **2015 VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESIDENT	Kimberly D'Urso ~ <a href="mailto:kimberly.c4c@gmail.com">kimberly.c4c@gmail.com</a>
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**Citizens for Choice**  
P.O. Box 3525, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
**530-274-3331**  
*phone messages retrieved weekly*  
**email: [info@citizensforchoice.org](mailto:info@citizensforchoice.org)**

## Family Planning Health Worker



Citizens for Choice is proud to announce board member, Aaron Rutledge has just received his credentials as a Certified Health Worker! With recent legislation passage of AB 329 California Healthy Youth Act, we want to be sure that Nevada County has no shortage of unbiased, Certified Health Workers available to provide comprehensive sex education to students in our community.

If you, or someone you know is interested in becoming certified, please contact Aaron our Volunteer Coordinator for more information about getting started! Email: Aaron.C4C@gmail.com

## RECOMMENDED READS By Sharon O'Hara

### "PRO: Reclaiming Abortion Rights"

From the ACLU Magazine, STAND, Summer 2015 about the book:  
**PRO: RECLAIMING ABORTION RIGHTS** by Katha Pollitt

Pollitt presents the seemingly radical notion that women are sexual beings who deserve to be treated as human in political and social realms—specifically in regards to their reproductive freedom. She begins her narrative by targeting the reader, urging “you” to become part of the conversation. She notes the safety of abortion, making it clear that the mortality rate for abortions in America (.67 per 100,000) is significantly less than the mortality rate for Viagra (5 per 100,000) and then goes on to correct other myths. Pollitt also discusses the barriers for women of color and poor women to access abortions and encourages legislators to allow all women the right to choose their reproductive future.



To read more about this book, please go to:

<http://www.latimes.com/books/jacketcopy/la-ca-jc-katha-pollitt-20141012-story.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/12/books/review/katha-pollitt-pro-reclaiming-abortion-rights-review.html>

## DONORS

Citizens for Choice thanks the following donors whose generosity was received  
Fall 2015

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George and J.L. Dunstan  
Larry Friedlander, M.D.  
Richard and Kathe Gresham  
Kristen Oshea  
Bernell Scott  
Nancy V. Weber

### 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  
530-521-3273 The Clinic!

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

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