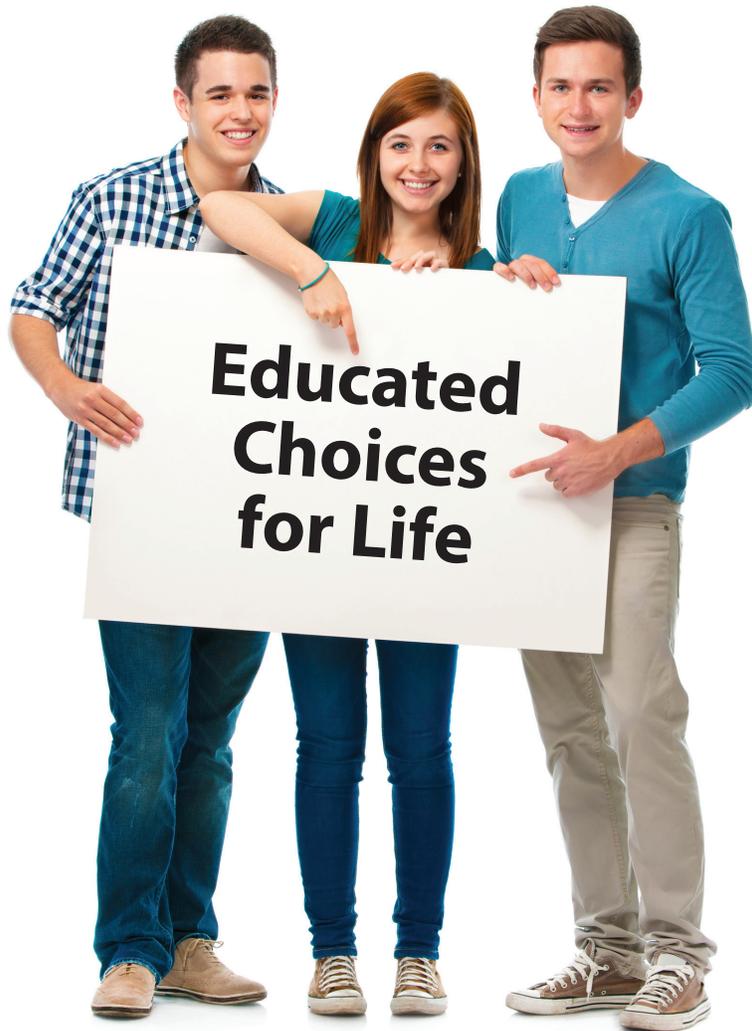




Voices for Choice

Spring 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

SPRING 2015 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S LETTER By Kimberly D'Urso, President

Reproductive Freedom Day April 6, 2015

Citizens for Choice Activists ~

Yesterday I had the great opportunity to attend Reproductive Freedom Day at our State Capitol. I represented Citizens for Choice, URGE (United for Reproductive & Gender Equity), and CCRF (California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom.)

After the morning tutorial on the bill summaries and advocacy training, I, along with others, participated in five legislative visits to Assembly members and Senate members to lobby for support of three bills: AB 329, SB 23, and AB 302. Below I will briefly outline why these bills are important to our work at Citizens for Choice. We are passionate in representing you, our rural citizens, at the State Capitol.

AB 329: Also known as the "Healthy Youth Act," this Assembly Bill should be passed because it takes the confusion out of the current sex-ed taught in schools. The HIV component of our local and state sex-education curriculum is over 20 years old. We need STI prevention information taught at our schools, not just HIV. STIs (sexually

transmitted infections) are increasing and are the highest among our youth. This bill mandates that sex education be more inclusive of the LGBTQ community, and that it include topics such as healthy relationships, consent, teen dating violence, and sex trafficking, among others.

SB 23: Serves to repeal the current state provision that if a low-income family that receives CalWorks benefits for one child, and then has another child, that second child would not be eligible for benefits. This discriminates against the most defenseless citizens of all, babies who are born into poverty.

AB 302: This bill needs to be supported more vehemently. It is a bill that provides for a young breastfeeding mother's right to a safe and clean environment to breastfeed her child, rather than a dirty bathroom stall. This bill needs to be implemented



statewide, and locally. Because schools are not aware of their responsibility to provide a space, mothers are discriminated against. Rather than being provided a safe, clean space, many are counseled to drop out of high school and attend a continuation school, or do so because breastfeeding presents a challenge in current conditions.

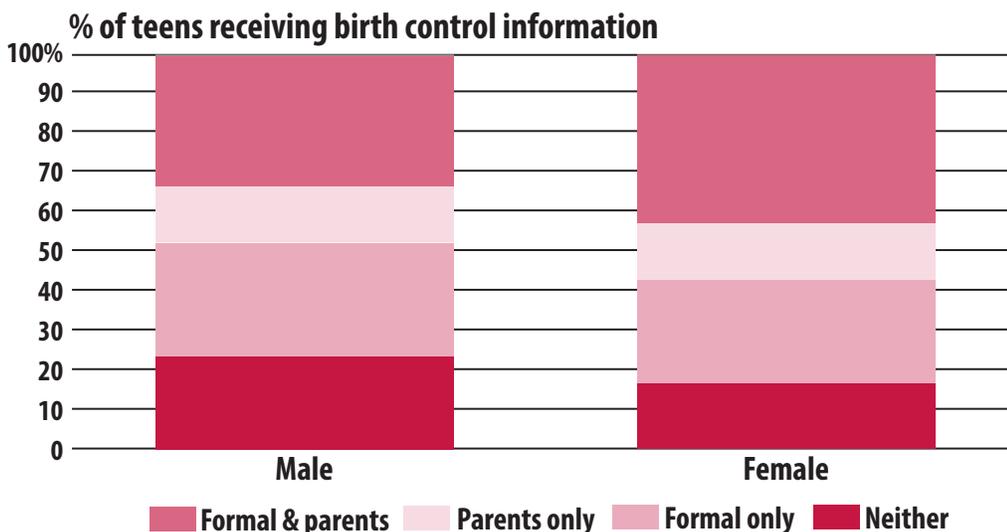
This event was interesting and fun to be a part of. If you would like to participate on future dates as these bills progress, please contact Citizens for Choice directly at: info@citizensforchoice.org

Thank you for your continued support of our volunteer efforts. Together, we are Citizens for Choice.

Best—Kimberly D'Urso, President

Nearly one-quarter of teens DO NOT get information about birth control from either a parent or in schools.

Source: Guttmacher Institute



**KNOW IT
AND
OWN IT**

Please stay in touch by visiting our website for news, information, updates on our sexual education program, related articles and resource links. citizensforchoice.org or find us on facebook for daily news.

PUBLIC POLICY By Elaine Sierra, Public Policy Chair

What's up with Crisis Pregnancy Centers! *Pregnancy-related care or anti-abortion disinformation?*



As a women's health advocate, Citizens for Choice has long been concerned about crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs)—**Why?**

- Because we've heard too many negative reports from women who have visited them seeking counseling or prenatal services and, instead have received biased, unsolicited religiously-based moral advice or false information.
- Because the falsehoods start with how CPCs advertise who they are and what services they provide.
- And because CPCs mislead women into delaying the time-sensitive decision about whether and when to terminate an unplanned pregnancy—either until it is too late, creates unnecessary medical risks or delays legitimate medical care that would optimize their chances for a healthy pregnancy and birth.

Recent evidence of CPC's deceptive practices has been uncovered...First is a recent federal court case involving a false advertising ordinance in San Francisco, aimed at CPCs. A CPC owner called "First Resort" challenged the regulation as a violation of free speech. First Resort advertised that its clinic offered "abortion information, resources and compassionate support for

women facing the crucial decisions that surround unintended pregnancies". Yet, its articles of incorporation identified the true goal as to "build an abortion-free world." In February, the Court ruled against First Resort. It found that the ordinance did not violate the CPC's free speech rights because the advertising was deemed commercial speech, which can be regulated to ensure truth and accuracy. You can read the SF Chronicle coverage at:

www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Limits-upheld-on-ads-by-antiabortion-pregnancy-6097159.php

A second example is a NARAL Pro-choice undercover investigation of 43 CPCs in California, conducted over the last year. To watch the video that exposes the lies, deceit, and manipulation uncovered at such fake clinics, go to: www.prochoiceamerica.org/ca-cpcs/unmasking-fake-clinics.html Or See the full report at: www.prochoiceamerica.org/ca-cpcs/full-report-un.html

ACTION IN ADVOCACY

Citizens for Choice is supportive of a bill, called the **Reproductive FACT Act**—for Freedom, Accountability, Comprehensive Care, and Transparency or **AB 775**. It would require CPCs and other licensed providers

of pregnancy-related services to provide specific information to those served, including their legal rights to use birth control, bear a child or have an abortion. It would also require them to provide lower income individuals with information about how to get health insurance. It would require unlicensed providers of pregnancy-related services to state clearly that they are not medical facilities licensed by the state and do not have a licensed medical provider on staff.

We believe the bill is needed to make women aware that crisis pregnancy centers are not medical facilities, are not licensed, and do not provide prenatal care or comprehensive reproductive healthcare or referrals. It would serve the real healthcare needs of women and support women's rights to make their own reproductive choices—our own goals.

91% of CPCs visited said abortion was linked to breast cancer, infertility, miscarriage or suicide.

ADDITIONAL 2015 LEGISLATION: To learn more visit: www.citizensforchoice.org/home/policy-activism/

AB 329 (Weber), California Healthy Youth Act: Strengthens existing laws and promotes the health of California youth by mandating sexual health education in public schools, integrated into the current HIV/AIDS prevention education mandate.

SB 4 (Lara) Health for All Act: Extends health coverage to California's undocumented immigrants, by establishing a special public health insurance exchange for them, similar to Covered California, and by making them eligible for Medi-Cal.

SB 23 (Mitchell), Repeal of Maximum Family Grant rule for CalWORKS: Successor to 2014's SB 899. Protects health and safety of children born into poverty, ending California's intrusion into private reproductive and medical decisions of poor families.

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phone messages retrieved weekly
email: info@citizensforchoice.org

VOLUNTEER

Citizens for Choice made it even easier to contact us about volunteering! We've added a form to our website which helps us to better apply your level of interest and skills. Whether it is filling the condom baskets, folding mailers or representing our community at legislative events—**WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US!**

Visit: www.citizensforchoice.org/home/volunteer/

You are
the "i" in
CHOICE

Condom Fairies & Basket Locations

If you are interested in ensuring that some—or all of our condom baskets are always full, please email our outreach coordinator at: debra.c4c@gmail.com to become one of our valued condom fairies.



Asylum Down • Behind Closed Doors • Briar Patch • Cafe Mekka • Classix Tattoo
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Good Times Board Store • HAALo • Ink Expressed Tattoo • Dr. E. Lernhardt, MD
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The Stone House • Tribal Weaver • WIC

Re-Branding Continues

For decades *The Clinic!* has endured a hear say reputation of being branded primarily as "the abortion clinic." But the statistics on patient visits reflect an entirely different reality. Services provided to men, women and teens include contraceptives, annual exams and STI screenings as well as coordinated arrangements for safe abortion, adoption and many other local affiliations which support the physical and emotional health of patients.

This year, we have reallocated some of our advertising budget to reach out to a portion of the community which would directly benefit from the services provided at *The Clinic!* including: new residents, low-income, LGBTQ or patients who simply want to speak to a medical professional outside of their primary care physician for confidentiality reasons.

Please look for our ads and editorial pieces in the Parents' Resource Guide beginning with the Spring issue distributed mid-April.



DONORS

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

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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.

THE
Clinic!

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