

FALL 2009 CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF
PLANNING FAMILIES, PLANNING FUTURES.

The Newsletter of The Planned Parenthood Trust of San Antonio and South Central Texas

70th
Anniversary 

HORIZONS

WE PROVIDE AND PROTECT THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AND INFORMATION PEOPLE NEED TO PLAN THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR FUTURES.

Health Care Reform & Planned Parenthood

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JEFFREY HONS, PRESIDENT & CEO



Over the last several weeks I have been thinking about the recent news coverage and grassroots advocacy supporting Project WORTH, the sex education and teen pregnancy prevention program funded and supervised by the City of San Antonio. I was heartened to see so many people expressing support for this program and its work to help teenagers postpone parenting until they are adults themselves.

Too-soon pregnancy is a complex and vexing public health concern and it will require many and varied efforts to help reduce the number of teens in San Antonio who become pregnant. A major study recently released by Child Trends (see page 8) identified San Antonio as the third most likely city in the United States where teen moms will experience a second pregnancy whilst in their teenage years. These findings disturb me greatly as I contemplate all of the young people whose full potential will be thwarted as they struggle with too much, too soon. Many of these teenagers are already in difficult life situations so I doubt they are ready to care for a child. Nor do I think that becoming a parent at a young age is going to help resolve any of the troubles they were facing before the pregnancy.

Let me reiterate and be clear: ***I am supportive of all efforts that help young people avoid too-soon pregnancy.*** Anyone who takes up this cause has a friend in me. But I was struck, perhaps even perplexed, that while the city had a conversation about teen pregnancy prevention there was no mention of Planned Parenthood in particular, or even the importance of family planning clinics and birth control in general.

I believe Planned Parenthood is the city's most effective teen pregnancy prevention program. That's a big claim so let's look at the numbers. In 2008, Planned Parenthood provided family planning services to 2,548 young women age 17 and younger. This is a tremendous success. That means 2,548 girls who were sexually active were avoiding pregnancy.

In researching this number, I excluded the additional 3,172 teenage women who were age 18 or 19 at

the time of their family planning appointment in our clinics. Further, I excluded anyone who came to us for abortion care (165 minors), so the 2,548 is pure prevention of teenage pregnancy among minors. Finally, and quite interesting, there were another 185 young men age 17 and younger who came to Planned Parenthood for family planning and sexual health care.

I began my career in family planning twenty years ago. In the intervening years, I've listened to a great many reports on programs of all sorts, public and private, throughout the region, that aim to prevent teen pregnancy. I don't recall programs that were able to reach the number of young women we do at Planned Parenthood – truly preventing pregnancy.

I love Planned Parenthood. It is more than my career, it is my passion. But I realize young people need a lot more than a Planned Parenthood clinic to keep their lives on track and avoid pregnancy in their teenage

years. This is why I am thrilled to see so many varied programs working with young people. But young people do need Planned Parenthood, too, along with everything else. Further, I would like to hear Planned Parenthood

proudly included in those important conversations about the array of programs and services that comprise the teen pregnancy prevention efforts in our cities and communities.

Finally, and perhaps as a footnote, the people who protest on the sidewalk outside my office window do nothing, absolutely nothing, to prevent so much as one teen pregnancy. They do nothing to prevent one abortion while Planned Parenthood prevents thousands of abortions with our family planning clinics. And their protests do nothing to help vulnerable, at-risk teens keep their fragile lives pointed toward a successful adulthood.

I would like Planned Parenthood's incredible volume of service delivery and teen pregnancy prevention success to be recognized and praised. Our supporters know the tremendous work that we do each day to prevent unplanned and too soon pregnancies. It is time that we spread our message far and wide, and amplify our collective voice.

JEFFREY HONS, PRESIDENT & CEO

FAMILY PLANNING: TOUGH TIMES CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The economy. The subject continues to permeate the headlines. The national rate of unemployment is at 10%, the highest level in decades. And here in Texas, we have the highest percentage of uninsured adults than any other state – a whopping 30%¹. Right now, families are making sacrifices to survive, forgoing preventive health care, including family planning.

In May, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology released the results of a survey that revealed that one in five married women ages 18 – 44 says, “the shaky economy has affected their plans to increase the size of their family.” More recently, in September, the Guttmacher Institute released an in-depth study titled, ***A Real-Time Look at the Impact of the Recession on Women’s Family Planning and Pregnancy Decisions***. The study provides further concrete evidence that women’s contraceptive use and childbearing decisions have been affected by the recession. Some of the findings, while disturbing, were anticipated:

- **More than half of the women surveyed reported being worse off financially than they were a year ago.**
- **More than one in four women said they or their partners have lost jobs or health insurance in the last year.**

The specific findings about family planning decisions demand our attention:

- **Nearly one in four women reported delaying a gynecological or contraceptive visit because of financial concerns.**
- **The women who are financially worse off were more likely to report changes in contraception use and childbearing decisions, including being more likely to forgo contraception or switch to a long-term contraceptive method in order to save money.**

And,

- **Many women reported difficulty in paying for contraception, sometimes resulting in switching to a less-expensive method or forgoing contraception altogether.**

“Many women are struggling to obtain the care they need; they report having a harder time paying for contraceptive services, and worry about taking time off from work to obtain health care. We found evidence of women not using birth control and using methods inconsistently — all in an effort to save money. Women who use these short-term money-saving strategies are at risk for long-term negative consequences, including unintended pregnancy.”

Women need access to family planning and sexual health care now more than ever regardless of their ability to pay. As it stands, women of childbearing age spend 68 percent more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men, in part because of reproductive health-related needs. The number of women in need of publicly funded family planning services nationally (currently 17.5 million) increased by more than one million (seven percent) between 2000 and 2006. In Texas, more than 1.8 million women are currently in need of subsidized family planning services.

Help is quite possibly on the way. The Medicaid Family Planning State Option (MFPSO) is a provision within the proposed House and Senate federal health care reform bills. It is a proven-effective approach to expanding coverage for family planning and reproductive health care services, while at the same time generating significant cost savings for states and the federal government. This provision would give states the option to establish parity between eligibility for pregnancy-related care and eligibility for family planning services under Medicaid. MFPSO would expand Medicaid for states at the federal level. The savings are substantial. The Congressional Budget Office determined that MFPSO would save \$700 million over ten years. States will see considerable reductions in their Medicaid expenditures as well.

Also, states would no longer have to go through the cumbersome, and sometimes grueling, process of obtaining or renewing state Medicaid waiver. Here in Texas, where attacks on family planning funding remain prevalent, it will be a challenge to renew the current Medicaid (see right) waiver despite the potential cost savings.

Additionally, with the federal government establishing the guidelines for the program, state legislators will not be able to dictate who is eligible for the program and which health care services are covered.

MFPSO is currently in both the Senate Finance Committee and the House tri-committee (House Energy & Commerce, Ways and Means, Education & Labor) health care reform bills. It is crucial that this language remain in the versions of the bills that move to the floor.

You can help. Please contact your member of Congress and ask for support of the MFPSO. Your congressman should speak out against any amendments that would remove or negatively alter MFPSO when the Health Care Reform package moves to the House and Senate floor.

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*Please contact **Yvonne Gutierrez**, Vice President for Community Affairs at (210) 736-2244 or **yvonne.gutierrez@pptrust.org**, if you have any questions or would like additional information.*

THE CURRENT STATE OF TEXAS MEDICAID?

The Texas Women's Medicaid Health Program (WHP) is a state Medicaid waiver for family planning that carries a 90/10 federal match. WHP was implemented in January 2007. Women who live at 185% of the poverty level, are between the ages of 18 and 44, and are US citizens, are eligible to receive family planning services including annual exams, contraception and testing for sexual transmitted diseases. However, due to an anti-family planning uproar from right-wing legislators, the program does not cover essential sexual health care such as treatment for sexually transmitted diseases or emergency contraception. While WHP has the potential to be an effective program, Texas has failed to put the resources necessary into marketing and outreach to eligible women. Only 80,000 of the 1.8 million eligible Texas women are currently enrolled in the program – that's less than 5%.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every family planning dollar spent saves \$4.02 in Medicaid-related costs alone. Currently 27 states have expanded family planning programs, and independent evaluations estimate huge cost savings for states that have invested in outreach for these programs – \$75 million in Arkansas over 5 years and \$214 million in Alabama over 3 years. Legislation must be implemented to ensure this success across the country - especially here in Texas where more than 55% of all births are paid for by Medicaid.

HABLA CON TU HERMANASM

COMMEMORATES BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Clinica Festival is a special day when women from the community are invited to a sidewalk health fair in front of a Planned Parenthood clinic. Women who have been educated through **HABLA CON TU HERMANASM** are encouraged to bring other women to **Clinica Festival**. **Promotoras** and staff are present to guide them through their visit.



On October 14th **HABLA CON TU HERMANASM** held a **Clinica Festival** at the Southeast Clinic to commemorate **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. More than 50 people came out to the event that featured information about breast health and the importance of regular screenings. The atmosphere was delightful with festivities including live music from 95X, crafts for the kids and refreshments for everyone. **Promotoras** greeted passersby and offered instruction on performing breast self-exams to women in community.

Promotoras have been busy all year, participating in health events and making presentations at community organizations, businesses and in homes. In particular, the Southeast marketing outreach campaign – which aims to navigate women to the Southeast Clinic via promotional visits and presentations – has yielded great results. Since the beginning of the year, promotoras have made 255 promotional visits to area businesses and have provided 55 educational presentations to women in the workplace. Participating locations include: Carriera's Hair Salon, Church's Chicken, Dollar General, Cricket, Educare Child Care, Patty's Taco House and the Presa Community Center.

For more information about **HABLA CON TU HERMANASM** or to schedule a free education presentation in your home or workplace, please contact Valeria Mascorro at (210) 736-2244 or valerie.mascorro@pptrust.org.

A DEMONSTRATION OF LOVE

PROMOTORA CUTS HER HAIR IN SOLIDARITY

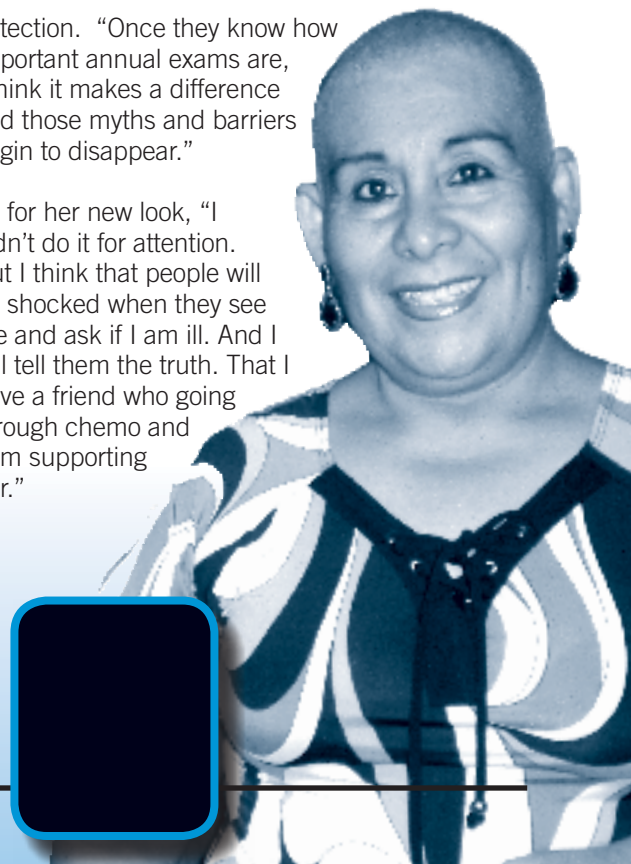
When Maria Luisa Santiago heard her pastor's wife had breast cancer, she was overcome with incredible sadness. "I stayed home and prayed for her for days," she said. Yet Maria Luisa felt she needed to take some sort of action to show her support. So on a recent Saturday afternoon, Maria Luisa cut off her hair. Completely. "It's a demonstration of love, a way for me to show solidarity. She has done so much for me and my family, I wanted to show her my support as she goes through this (chemotherapy treatment)."

Maria Luisa, 56, is an **Habla Con Tu Hermana** promotora and provides breast cancer education in her presentations at homes, libraries and her church. As a certified community health worker, she is used to hearing all sorts of stories from women in the community who are often

too ashamed of their bodies to get annual screening or mammography. "For many women, it is considered taboo to touch one's own body." So Maria Luisa must explain to women that self-breast exams and yearly screenings are imperative to early

detection. "Once they know how important annual exams are, I think it makes a difference and those myths and barriers begin to disappear."

As for her new look, "I didn't do it for attention. But I think that people will be shocked when they see me and ask if I am ill. And I will tell them the truth. That I have a friend who going through chemo and I am supporting her."



PLANNED PARENTHOOD WELCOMES DR. MAYA ANGELOU



April 14, 2010

PATIENT STORY:

I became sexually active at the age of 17 and had no idea how to be responsible about sex. Because of Planned Parenthood, I was able to visit a doctor on my own, buy protection and birth control pills. Anytime I have a question about my sexual health, all I have to do is pick up the phone and call. The staff has always educated me on protection and various methods of birth control. Thank You Planned Parenthood!

- Mary*

*Name has been changed for privacy.

On **April 14, 2010** Planned Parenthood will host its annual luncheon featuring guest speaker **Dr. Maya Angelou** – the poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director who is hailed around the world as one of the great voices of our age.

Planned Parenthood is committed to the sexual and reproductive health of all people, providing the health care and information people need to lead the lives they dream for themselves. Dr. Angelou's work dares us to dream, thus her presence at our 2010 Luncheon will be particularly poignant and meaningful.

Once again, the venue for the Annual Lunch will be the lovely **Grand Hyatt Hotel**. While tickets will not go on sale for several months, the 2010 Luncheon Committee, co-chaired by Mindi and Gayle Alterman, is actively seeking sponsors for this very special event. Benefits of sponsorship vary according to level, but may include photo opportunities with Dr. Angelou, invitations to private receptions, hand-signed and inscribed books, premier seating, valet parking, inclusion in Planned Parenthood's family of Patrons and recognition in all Luncheon materials.

Of course the greatest benefit of sponsorship is the knowledge that your support will help Planned Parenthood continue to provide family planning and cancer screening and prevention to the women in San Antonio, Alice and Kingsville who have little or no ability to pay.

Please contact **Angela Koester** at 210-736-2244 ext. 317 or angela.koester@pptrust.org for more information.



2009 PATRON PARTY

On October 6 our Patrons gathered at Bill and Cheryl Freed's stunning home in Olmos Park for our annual Patron Party. Patrons are individuals whose gifts meet or exceed the \$1000 level on an annual basis. There are currently over 120 Patrons of The Planned Parenthood Trust of San Antonio and South Central Texas and last year they contributed \$677,934 to underpin our life changing, life saving, work.

Senator Jeff Wentworth and Representatives Mike Villarreal and Joaquin Castro were among the party's guests. In his remarks, President & CEO Jeffrey Hons thanked them (and Senator Leticia Van de Putte and House Speaker Joe Straus, in absentia) for their tireless efforts on behalf of Texas women and children during the last legislative session.

Mindi Alterman, whose tenure as Board Chair ends in December, was also honored. Jeffrey praised her incomparable commitment and energy, "For everything you have done, Mindi, my gratitude knows no bound."

Mindi commented on the remarkable strides that Planned Parenthood has made recently in the areas of cervical cancer prevention, STD testing and treatment and permanent birth control. She attributed these accomplishments to the steadfast support of the Patrons and thanked them on behalf of the many vulnerable, uninsured and low-income women, men and teenagers who are the real beneficiaries of their philanthropy. Additionally, Mindi acknowledged the integrity and immense compassion of Board Chair-elect, Rev. Jon Lowry, and expressed her confidence that under his leadership Planned Parenthood would continue to move from strength to strength.

If you are interested in becoming a Patron of Planned Parenthood, please contact
Angela Koester, Director of Annual Campaign, at 210-736-2244, ext. 317 or at
angela.koester@pptrust.org



Mrs. Anna Lowry, Board Chair-Elect Rev. Jon Lowry,
 Mrs. Ike Kampmann, Jr., and Jeffrey Hons



Yvonne Gutierrez, State Sen. Jeff Wentworth,
 Rabbi Barry H.D. Block



Mr. and Mrs. Graham B. Knight



Diana Winship Eyestone and Rev. Jon Lowry



Dr. Glenn Half, Deborah Miller, Board Member Cheryl Freed,
 and Board Chair Mindi Alterman

“Jump backwards three times”

“Drink Mountain Dew to lower sperm count”

“Have sex underwater”



get SMARTSM ADDRESSES MYTHS

EDUCATES TEENS

These are some of the myths to avoid pregnancy that Community Education Coordinator Tanya Khalfan heard from teens during **get SMART**'s summer health education training. “Our goal is to dispel these myths and provide teens with scientifically-accurate sex education,” says Tanya. “This information is sorely needed in our community, given local rates for teen pregnancy and STDs.” In September, a Child Trends report revealed that San Antonio has the third highest repeat teen birth rate (two or more births to teen mothers)

in the country. According to the report, repeat teen births make up 26% of all birth to teens in San Antonio.

“Our goal is to dispel these myths and provide teens with scientifically-accurate sex education”

There are many factors that may contribute to these local rates and lack of comprehensive sex education is arguably high on the list. To make matters worse the Texas Legislature recently dropped health education as a

requirement for graduation. Beginning this school year, health education is no longer required for Texas high school students under the Recommended High School Program – the plan followed by most students. Many health advocates across the state worry about the implication this will have on students and their ability to make good choices.

Now more than ever, community-based programs like **get SMART** are needed to provide teens with the education they need to make informed decisions. **get SMART** works to fill educational voids by increasing teens' knowledge about sexual health and responsibility. Over the summer, the peer educators attended an intensive training series that spanned three days and covered twenty different topics, including pregnancy & STD prevention. Peer educators also had the opportunity to learn from and speak with guest speakers from The Rape Crisis Center, Beat AIDS and Healthy Futures. During the fall and upcoming spring semesters, peer educators will teach other area youth about sexual health and responsibility.

GETSMART ADVOCATES IN WASHINGTON!



In July, two of **get SMART**'s peer educators were selected to attend the first Youth Organizing & Policy Conference held by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in Washington, D.C. During the three day visit, the peer educators learned best practices in advocating for sex education and women's health and met with elected officials, including Congressman Charlie Gonzales, for a lobby visit on national health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM & *PLANNED PARENTHOOD*

The health care reform debate dominated the news this summer with surprisingly charged rhetoric. Media coverage focused on sensationalized chaotic town hall meetings featuring “constituents” making false, sweeping and sometimes belligerent statements about health care reform including:

You’ll have no choice in what health benefits you receive

No chemotherapy for older Medicare patients

Undocumented immigrants will get free health insurance

The creation of “death panels” to decide who lives

And, of course,

Tax dollars will pay for abortion

Middle income working families were perplexed and began to question personal support for health care reform. The lead statement in an October 1 New York Times editorial read, “Critics of pending health care reforms claim they want to ensure that the government does not thrust itself between patients and doctors to dictate what medical procedures can be performed. Yet many are trying to do just that when it comes to one legal and medically valid service: abortion.”

Poll after poll shows the majority of Americans want health care reform that will increase access to quality, affordable care. Right-wing opponents are using immigration and abortion as wedge issues to stop progress on reform. Singling out abortion for exclusion from health insurance is both discriminatory and harmful to women’s health.

Right-wing opponents are using immigration and abortion as wedge issues to stop progress on reform.

Essentially half of private insurance plans cover abortion today. Any attempt to restrict this coverage would constitute an unprecedented restriction on women’s health—taking benefits away that currently exist.

On July 6, the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) released a poll (conducted by the Mellman Group) of 1,000 likely voters indicating that 71% favor including reproductive services such as birth control and abortion as part of health reform.

Despite public support for reproductive health care, many pro-choice and pro-family planning legislators had to broker compromise language on abortion in order to beat back dangerous anti-choice amendments. The compromise is titled the **Capps Amendment**, named for Representative Capps (D-CA-23).

As it currently stands, the **Capps Amendment** is a carefully, crafted compromise which assures that access to abortion would neither be mandated nor prohibited - and that women would not lose health care benefits that they have had for decades, while also addressing concerns that no federal funds would be used for abortion. After repeated attempts from anti-choice legislators including Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to load its health care reform bill with abortion related amendments, the Senate Finance Committee added language that mirrors the **Capps Amendment**. However, pro-choice advocates have made it clear, the Capps compromise and the Finance committee language is as far as we will go—any further compromise will mean a giant leap backwards for women’s health.

Although abortion has remained in the forefront of health care reform news, the Planned Parenthood government relations team in Washington, D.C. and affiliates across the country has been hard at work to ensure that our concerns are included in the final health care reform exchange.

•Ensure that essential community providers such as Planned Parenthood are included in the health care reform exchange.

Essential community providers—such as public hospitals, community health centers, women’s health centers, and HIV/AIDS clinics—are an important part of the provider network in communities across the country. Essential community providers currently serve as an entry-point into the health care system for millions of patients, and it’s imperative that they can continue to do so for the millions more who will be coming to them as a result of health care reform. This is especially important for American women, millions of whom rely on women’s health centers as their primary source of care.

•Ensure that preventive and primary care (e.g. breast exams, cervical cancer screenings and contraception) are included in any minimum benefits package.

•Make sure that coverage of abortion care is not eroded.

•Support the Medicaid family planning state option.

This provision would allow states to expand eligibility for Medicaid family planning services, similar to the recently established Women’s Medicaid Health Program in Texas. See article on page 3 for additional information on the Medicaid family planning state option.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 11](#)



So where does Planned Parenthood stand today (October 29) as health care reform is moving through Congress?

Both houses of Congress and multiple committees have been working on different versions of health care reform. In the House of Representatives, three committees (Energy & Commerce Committee, the Ways & Means Committee and the Education & Labor Committee) have passed bills. House leadership and key committee leaders are melding the three bills into a single bill. This single Tri-Committee bill, HB 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act, will go to the House floor for a vote in late October or early November.

HB 3200 includes the essential community provider provision – but there is a problem. Only health centers that receive Title X family planning or 318 Federal Infertility Prevention Project funding would qualify for discounted prescription drug pricing for essential pharmaceuticals including contraception and medication to treat sexually transmitted diseases. Many city and county health departments and hospitals and some Planned Parenthood clinics would not be eligible for the discounted pricing. Family planning providers across the country are calling their Congressmen and Congresswomen asking for the bill to be amended. Here at The Planned Parenthood Trust of San Antonio Texas, only four of our nine clinics receive Title X family planning funds making them eligible to receive discounted prescription drug pricing.

Our very own Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (D-TX-20), a member of the powerful House Energy & Commerce Committee, spoke up on behalf of essential community providers and went directly to Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD-5), House Majority Leader, to make sure that all community health providers who assist medically underserved communities are eligible to receive discount prescription drug pricing.

On October 23, we learned that the essential community provider provision will make it into the melded health care reform bill in the House and that it will be improved to include discounted prescription drug prices for all providers under the provision. This is an enormous step forward for community providers in health care reform.

Finally, the compromise Capps Amendment is part of HR 3200, but the bill does not specify which preventative services shall be included.

In the Senate there are two health care reform bills. First, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee passed a bill, Affordable Health Choices Act, in July. The essential community provider language that Planned Parenthood supports is in the HELP bill. Additionally, the bill covers women's preventive health care and screenings. Further and perhaps most important, there is no abortion specific language in the HELP bill. No exclusions. No compromises.

The second Senate bill passed the Senate Finance Committee on October 13. Senator Baccus (D-MO-1), Committee Chair, was able to garner the support of all 13 Democrats and one Republican, Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME-2), to finally pass America's Healthy Future Act of 2009 out of his committee. Due to jurisdiction restrictions, the bill does not include the essential community provider language. The bill includes language similar to the Capps Amendment adopted in the House, minus the public option*.

The best case scenario for Planned Parenthood is for key legislators to maintain the HELP Committee bill language as it is melded with the Senate Finance language.

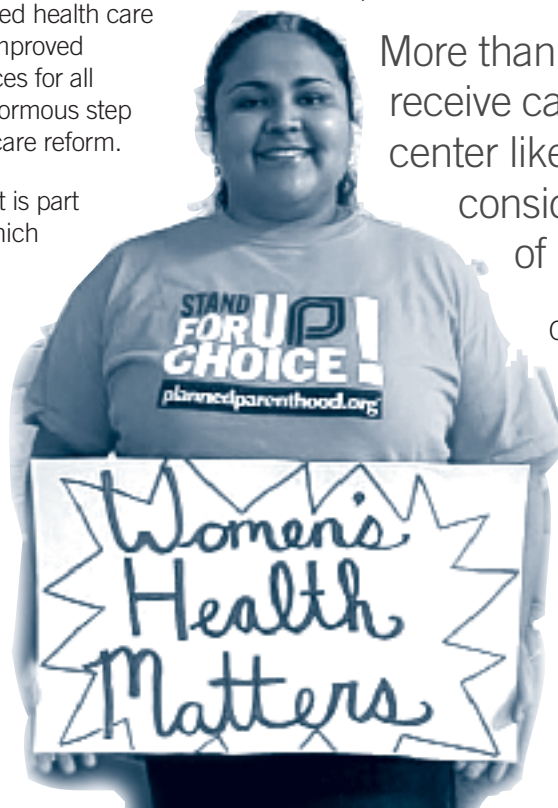
The process of melding the Senate Finance bill and the Senate HELP Bill is well underway. Planned Parenthood staff, volunteers and advocates are working hard to ensure the key members of the Senate hear from us and support our legislative priorities now and when the bill hits the Senate floor.

Many champions of women's reproductive health care including, Senators Mikulski (D-MD), Boxer (D-CA), Murray (D-WA), Landrieu (D-LA), Stabenow (D-MI), Klobuchar (D-MN), Shaheen (D-NH), Hagan (D-NC) and Gillibrand (D-NY), all converged on the Senate floor on October 8 to give back-to-back speeches on how health insurance reform has the potential to improve health care for women. A number of these Democratic women Senators spoke about improving access to quality preventive reproductive health care, and Senator Gillibrand went even further focusing specifically on women's health centers and the work they do to reduce unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Senator Gillibrand clearly stated that the critical work women's health centers are doing is being politicized as a part of the debate. And she said we must safeguard women's access to women's health clinics, urging that the strategy for reform must protect these critical services.

At press time of this publication, the Senate floor debate is tentatively scheduled to begin early to mid November and is expected to last for several weeks.

More than six in 10 patients who receive care at a women's health center like Planned Parenthood consider it their primary source of health care.

One in four women who receives contraceptive care; one in six women who obtains a Pap test or a pelvic exam; and one-third of women who receive patient education, testing, or treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, does so at a women's health center. This basic health care is essential, giving women the tools they need to protect and support themselves and their families, particularly during difficult economic times.



How does a public insurance option fit in? Does Planned Parenthood support it?

There is a lot of talk about including a public health insurance option in health care reform. This would be a federally-backed insurance plan. It could be based on an existing government program like Medicare, or it could be run by a private insurance company with government backing. Many believe this option would ensure consumer choice and create competition with private plans, driving down costs as a result. Planned Parenthood supports the public option, but this is not our top priority. Our primary concerns are to ensure that family planning is a covered medical service, that abortion care is not excluded from health care coverage, and that essential community providers – including PP – are part of tomorrow's health care system.





PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA PRESIDENT CECILE RICHARDS VISITS SAN ANTONIO

On September 14, Cecile Richards visited San Antonio for a special day with local elected officials as well as Planned Parenthood staff, supporters and advocates.

First, Cecile joined State Representatives Joaquin Castro, Joe Farias, Jose Menendez, Mike Villarreal, and staff from the offices of Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon and Senators Jeff Wentworth and Leticia Van de Putte, for a lunch and discussion about expanding access to women's health care and scientifically-accurate sex education in Texas. Yvonne Gutierrez, Vice President for Community Affairs, and Jeffrey Hons also participated in the discussion. The discussion mainly focused on what happened during the recent legislative session, specifically on the **Education Works** bill, a comprehensive sex education bill that, after a successful hearing in the House Public Education committee, was derailed by Republican legislators who feared a backlash from right-wing proponents of "abstinence-only education." The legislators also spoke about working in a hostile political environment and fighting back against anti-choice legislation. Cecile was intrigued and genuinely impressed by these multi-term legislators with huge careers in front of them who make family planning and women's health care part of their platforms.

Next, Cecile attended a private reception for Planned Parenthood donors and supporters in the beautiful atrium of Temple Beth-El. Cecile thanked our longtime donors for their continued support of our work in San Antonio and South Central Texas and gave special recognition to our Board Chair Mindi Alterman for her many years of board service and championing the mission of Planned Parenthood.

Finally, Planned Parenthood proudly partnered with the Texas Freedom Network for a "Faith and Freedom Speaker Series" event in the Barshop Auditorium of Temple Beth-El featuring Cecile as the guest speaker. A native Texan, Cecile spoke to an audience of more than 200 people and focused on sex education. Cecile referenced the current abstinence-only curriculum used in 94% of Texas public schools and the failed abstinence-only funding experiment of the previous administration. Cecile also addressed the good work of Planned Parenthood on Capitol Hill to ensure that scientifically-accurate information about sexual health and prevention is included in key legislation that is currently being crafted.



Following the events in San Antonio, Cecile said, "The San Antonio legislators are fabulous and big champions of Planned Parenthood! Meeting with them was truly one of the highlights of my trip to Texas."



**“EVERY HOUR OF OUR
LIVING...DARES US...TO
LEAVE...A MARK!”**

Anthony Flores, 1st Place

SLAM YOUR RIGHTS! 2009

Despite the cold and rainy weather, local poets gathered on October 11 for what was arguably the strongest **Slam Your Rights!** competition over the past few years. “This year’s competition was fierce. Every year the competition gets better and better. The poets are incredibly passionate and their performances really capture the essence of their writing,” said Yvonne Gutierrez, Vice President for Community Affairs.

Our congratulations go out to 1st place Slam Your Rights winner, Anthony Flores, who beat out eight other contestants to win the \$250 cash prize. Amanda Flores came in 2nd place and Joy Jimenez received 3rd place honors. This year’s event was held at Tycoon Flats and poets from across the city gathered to battle it out,

expressing their thoughts and views on reproductive freedom, civil liberties and social justice. “It’s a great event” said poet Anthony Flores, “I try to attend every year. Slam Your Rights gives poets the perfect platform to perform and speak freely about issues that people sometimes shy away from.” Flores, a San Antonio native, recently performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

3rd place winner Joy Jimenez, agrees. “It was my first time at Slam Your Rights and I really enjoyed the competition and hearing what other poets had to say.” In one of her poems, Joy asserted her right to reproductive health:



***The right to make informed
decisions and to know***

***That I can trust my body
and my intuition***

***That I’m not ill, that I am
intelligent and capable of
good decisions***

Many thanks to all the poets who came out to the slam. A very special thank you to Slammaster Shaggy and DJ Lenyrd Spinyrd who graciously donated their time to the event. Also, many thanks to Tycoon Flats for hosting the slam.



Ruth Stewart RN
Supporter since 1991

*“I give to Planned Parenthood because it is **THE** resource for information, support and service for all those who have difficulty accessing reproductive health care. I am very grateful for the wonderful people who provide this despite economic and political obstacles, as well as the ever-present possibility of personal danger. Carry on!”*

SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD THROUGH WORKPLACE GIVING

Many Workplace Giving Campaigns are currently underway across the nation. Making a one-time donation through your employer, or signing up for regular payroll deductions, are wonderfully convenient ways to support family planning and reproductive health care in your community.

Last year, over \$40,000 was raised through workplace giving. We would be honored if you selected Planned Parenthood as your charity of choice ... again, or for the first time.

We do not always receive information as to the identity of donors from employers. If you

do choose to partner with us, please let us know so that we can acknowledge your level of generosity appropriately. You can contact Angela Koester at 210-736-2244 extension 317 or angela.koester@pptrust.org with the details of your gift.

Planned Parenthood is not always listed in workplace giving campaigns. These workplaces run “closed campaigns.” If your campaign does not list The Planned Parenthood Trust of San Antonio and South Central Texas as an option, please ask your Human Resources department to consider an “open campaign” which will allow more qualifying charities to participate. Angela Koester is happy to work with you or your campaign coordinator to help put Planned Parenthood on the list.

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Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Steve and Marty Hixon Family Foundation, all new gifts made in the month of November will be matched up to \$10,000.

Every gift to Planned Parenthood has the power to help the people of this community access the health care and information they need to make important personal decisions about their lives and their futures. If you give today, that power will be doubled.

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contact Angela Koester at 210-736-2244 x 317
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