



Memo

EC Access Bill Passes: NYS Legislature Gets the Job Done!

Governor Must Sign UPPA Into Law

In the race to conclude the legislative session on time, the Senate passed the "Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act" (UPPA) during its last week of business at the Capitol.

The bill will enable women to obtain emergency contraception from pharmacists and nurses who establish collaborative agreements with physicians. Emergency contraception (EC) can reduce the risk of pregnancy when taken soon after unprotected sex.

But many women have not been able to access EC in a timely manner because they have had to wait for a doctor's appointment. Studies show that widespread use and availability of EC could prevent more than half of all unintended pregnancies in New York.

Reproductive rights supporters across the state called, e-mailed and visited their Senators to urge passage of this important bill, which has passed the Assembly three years in a row.

Senator Nicholas Spano and Assemblymember Amy Paulin sponsored the bill, which now goes to Governor Pataki for his signature. Family Planning Advocates will continue to work with the Governor and his staff to ensure approval. The new law will take effect 180 days after the Governor signs the bill.



Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic Board Chair Daphne Philipson (left) and Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic President/CEO Reina Schiffrin (right) thanked Senator Nicholas Spano (center) for sponsoring legislation to increase access to emergency contraception.



FPA board members gathered in the State Capitol to greet legislators who supported UPPA. Pictured in front are Marcia Allina, Sharon Pikus, H. Jean Wilkinson and Esther Lewis.



Assemblymember Kevin Cahill, FPA Board Chair Catherine Abate, FPA Board Member Beth Johnson, Assemblymember Deborah Glick and FPA Board Members Lorraine Horner and Joan Hullar celebrated the passage of the UPPA with Assemblymember Amy Paulin, who has championed the bill for the past three years.

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Assembly Passes Healthy Teens Act

In a show of overwhelming bipartisan support, the New York State Assembly passed the Healthy Teens Act (A.6619), sponsored by Assemblymember Richard Gottfried, by a vote of 123-18.

This critical piece of legislation would create a competitive grant program for school districts, BOCES, school-based health centers and community-based organizations to provide age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education to young people in communities across the state.



President's Column

We did it! Our work to pass the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act came together on June 22, when the Senate joined the Assembly in approving legislation to expand access to emergency contraception in New York. Your grassroots activism successfully pushed the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act onto the list of "must-do" legislation for this year.

Once the Governor signs the bill and the law becomes effective, women across New York will be able to obtain emergency contraception from a pharmacist or nurse, rather than having to wait for a doctor's appointment.

Only seven other states in the nation have similar laws on the books. FPA's pro-active approach to preserving and expanding access to reproductive health care has proven to be very successful. Our efforts to ensure access to family planning not only in our state and our nation, but also around the world, have captured international attention.

FPA's work with International Planned Parenthood Federation-European Network highlights the importance of international collaboration in the face of U.S. policies that are dangerous to women at home and abroad.

We are proud to join with activists around the world to work for safer, healthier lives for women and their families.

Sincerely,

JoAnn M. Smith
President and CEO

FPA's Global Partnership Flourishes



Family Planning Advocates and a delegation from the International Planned Parenthood Federation-European Network (IPPF-EN) conducted the first of two international exchange trips that comprise the core work of FPA's project funded by Planned Parenthood Global Partners.

FPA coordinated a diverse series of workshops with IPPF-EN on topics including the development and use of advocacy networks. Many of FPA's colleagues and supporters from throughout New York State contributed to exchange activities and attended a policy discussion and reception that featured Anika Rahman, president of the U.S. Committee for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Guests at the June 1 New York City event sent postcards to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asking her to work to release the \$34 million appropriated by Congress for UNFPA this year. For more information, or to send an e-mail to Secretary Rice, go to www.fpaofnys.org and click on the "Take Action" button.



State, national and international reproductive rights leaders met at a reception welcoming a delegation of European advocates. Pictured are Carmen Barosso, regional director of International Planned Parenthood Federation-Western Hemisphere; Karen Pearl, interim president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Vicky Claeys, regional director of IPPF-EN and JoAnn Smith, president and CEO of Family Planning Advocates.

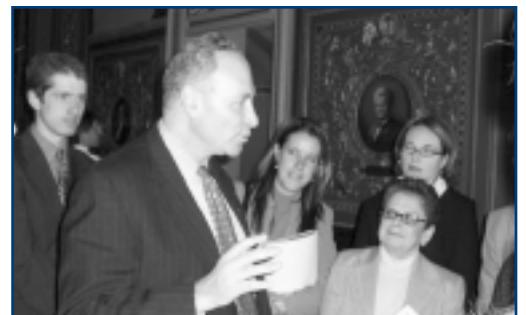
FPA and Planned Parenthood Take Action in DC



Planned Parenthood of Nassau County (PPNC) took to the Hill to preserve Medicaid and Title X funding for family planning. Pictured are PPNC board and staff members Sarah Miller, CeCe Haydock, Melissa Bulzomi, One Life to Live star Heather Tom who chairs Daytime for Planned Parenthood, Audrey Schein and Sharon Rocco.

Schumer Meets with New York Advocates

Senator Charles Schumer addressed reproductive rights activists from New York including Planned Parenthood Buffalo & Erie County (PPB&EC) Chief Operating Officer Karen Nelson, Planned Parenthood Nassau County Board Member Sharon Pikus, and PPB&EC Director of Development Heather McKinney.



Boehlert Receives Goldwater Award

Representatives of Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson (PPMH) were on hand to congratulate Congressman Sherwood Boehlert when he received the Planned Parenthood Republicans for Choice Barry Goldwater Award. Pictured are PPMH Board Member Steve Hunter, PPMH Co-President and CEO Margaret Roberts, Congressman Sherwood Boehlert and PPMH Board Chair Lisa Betrus.

Around New York

New Yorkers Await a Decision on Women's Health and Wellness Lawsuit

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has yet to rule in a case led by Catholic Charities seeking special rights to discriminate against women by denying employees access to health insurance coverage for contraceptives. While relying heavily on public funding, the plaintiffs claim they should be exempt from public rules.

Cultural and Linguistic Competency: Where Should We Begin?

The Education Fund of FPA received funding from the Ford Foundation/SisterSong Women of Color Collective to strengthen cultural and linguistic competence in reproductive health care settings. Three assessments will be conducted at clinics across the state and resources will be provided to assist clinics in developing and implementing strategies to deliver high quality reproductive health care to every client, regardless of race, ethnicity, cultural background or English proficiency.

New Staff Member Joins Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood

Katy Stevenson, Program Assistant for Public Affairs, Marketing & Finance, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood

Campus Connection

Students from Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges, Ithaca College, Onondaga Community College, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Geneseo and the University of Rochester convened at the New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls for Planned Parenthood Rochester/Syracuse Region's First Annual VOX Spring Conference.

Binghamton University now has a place for pro-choice students to get together, get involved and share their pro-choice passion. BU students started a VOX chapter in March after calling Planned Parenthood of South Central New York to inquire about volunteer opportunities.

Students from SUNY Purchase and SUNY Stony Brook traveled to Albany for Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic's second Annual Student Lobby Day. The group was introduced on the Assembly floor and met with Assemblymembers Amy Paulin, Patricia Eddington, George Latimer and Sandra Galef over dinner.

From the Hill

Judicial Nominees Threaten Choice

Judges who oppose women's right to choose abortion are being appointed to influential lifetime positions on the federal courts. In the next several months, it is likely that there will be at least one vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. An anti-choice majority on the Supreme Court could quickly dismantle constitutional protections for a woman's right to choose. Up-to-date information and opportunities to take action are available at www.saveroe.com.

Opposition to FDA Commissioner Nominee Strong

Acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford's nomination to permanently fill the top position at the FDA has come under scrutiny by both Democrats and Republicans. In a strong show of support for Plan B, which the FDA refused to approve for over-the-counter use under Crawford's leadership, Senator Hillary Clinton spoke adamantly about the need for a commissioner who would not let politics undermine the agency's mission or the public health.

FPA Staff Member Speaks at Congressional Briefing on Reproductive Health in DC

Sang Hee Won (pictured at far right) spoke at the *Asian Pacific American Women and Reproductive Health Congressional Briefing* in Washington, DC, during National Asian Heritage Month in May. Sang Hee spoke on the impact of religious restrictions on Asian Pacific American women's access to reproductive health care and met with (pictured from left) Gem Daus of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Courtney Chappell of National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Congressmember Doris O. Matsui, Kiran Ahuja of NAPAWF and Ederlina Co of NARAL.



Teen Endangerment Act Passes House

The House passed a bill known as the "Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act" on April 27. This bill is an inappropriate intrusion in decision-making that would criminalize the actions of some doctors and even close family members who help young people access abortion services.

FPA Albany Memo

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Concerned Clergy for Choice

Rabbi Dennis Ross

Director

Clergy Work for Reproductive Justice in the State Capitol

Representatives of Concerned Clergy for Choice met with state legislators on Clergy Day, April 12, to discuss the need for medically accurate sex education and Medicaid funding for abortion as matters of religious justice. The day opened with briefings by FPA staff and Senator Liz Kruger.

Clergy engaged legislators by pointing to biblical and other religious texts supporting reproductive rights. They spoke from the heart, sharing their real-life experiences that come from working with women and families making important decisions about their health and lives.

Concerned Clergy for Choice Produces Training Resource

Concerned Clergy for Choice has produced a resource for clergy entitled *When a Woman Makes a Choice: A Curriculum on Reproductive Decisions for Clinical Pastoral Education*.

The Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) curriculum is now being distributed for implementation in chaplaincy training programs across the state.

When a Woman Makes a Choice was created by Project Director Rabbi Dennis Ross with the assistance of his predecessor, The Rev. Dr. Paula J. Gravelle. This training resource is innovative in its reliance upon chaplaincy codes of ethics in assisting chaplains of all faiths when discussing reproductive options with women.



Assemblymember Richard Gottfried (center) welcomed people of faith to his office on Clergy Day to discuss the Healthy Teens Act, which he authored to provide young people with honest sex education. Pictured are Planned Parenthood New York City (PPNYC) Religious Leaders Task Force Volunteer Rachel Strauber, Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling of Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Assemblymember Gottfried, Rabbi Scott Weiner of The Hebrew Tabernacle Congregation, Rabbi Balfour Brickner of Stephen Wise Free Synagogue and Linda Freeman-Walker of PPNYC.

Concerned Clergy for Choice, a project of FPA's Education Fund, is a statewide network of more than 900 pro-choice clergy from a wide array of denominations who work to provide faith-based leadership in developing constructive policies and strategies to ensure that women have access to a full range of reproductive health care services.

Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Inc.

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