

"I raise up my voice – not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard." — Malala Yousafzai

Voice for Choice

Newsletter of the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Spring 2015

Griswold v. Connecticut Celebrates A Golden Anniversary

By Kate Cunningham, President, A Fund

Once upon a time, 50 years ago, in Connecticut, a married couple could not legally use contraceptives. The birth control pill had been invented in 1960, but it was illegal to prescribe or dispense the pill, or any contraception, in Connecticut. Estelle Griswold, Executive Director of the Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut, decided to challenge the state law that penalized the dispensing of contraceptives, even to married couples. What good is a birth control pill if state law prohibits your purchase or use of one? Ms. Griswold was found guilty of dispensing contraception and was fined; she appealed.

The state of Connecticut upheld the conviction of Estelle Griswold and, after exhausting her state appeals, she took her case to the US Supreme Court. It was this case, decided fifty years ago in June 1965, that first spelled out a "marital right of privacy." Although the US Constitution nowhere mentions a right of privacy, Justice William O. Douglas held that such a right was inherent and implied from the "penumbra" of rights protected by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments. (Louisville's own Justice Brandeis had written in 1890 that "the right to be let alone [is] the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men [and women].")

In 1972 the Supreme Court extended this right of privacy (and access to contraception) to unmarried persons, in *Eisenstadt v. Baird*. Building on *Griswold* and *Eisenstadt*, the Supreme Court, in January 1973 decided *Roe v. Wade*, the



landmark decision protecting women's privacy and the personal right to decide whether and when to bear a child.

Just as it has been poignant to look back at "Selma" 50 years later, it is useful to look back at *Griswold*, first step on a march toward reproductive freedom. We have come so far and yet have so much further to go in protecting the private decisions of pregnant women, their access to clinics and their real access to abortion.

KRCRC is proud to partner with A Fund, Inc. has been helping Kentucky girls and women pay for the abortions they seek since 1993. Visit www.kyafund.org to make an online donation to this 501c3 organization. Last year A Fund aided 395 women; with your donation we can help even more.

KRCRC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice is to direct the moral power of people of faith and religious organizations to safeguard and advance reproductive justice in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We do this through education, advocacy, counseling and support of organizations with related goals.

Help KRCRC continue our work
Donate online at krcrc.org
Or send a check to:
KRCRC, P.O. Box 4615,
Louisville, KY 40204

PAGE 2 **Notes from the Outgoing Board Chair**

By Caitlin Willenbrink

Dear friends of KRCRC,

It's with mixed emotions that I write my last "notes from the board chair" column. It seems so recent that I began my term as board chair, and I'm so proud of the work KRCRC has done -- the work all of you have done -- in the past two years. From two successful summers at the Kentucky State Fair, to After Tiller and an interactive Roe v. Wade commemoration, to demonstrating at a crisis pregnancy center, to creating a Facebook page, and beyond: we have made strides in advancing towards reproductive justice in our state.

YOU are all the heart of KRCRC and we would not be where we are without each of you. I encourage you to continue supporting KRCRC, volunteering with us, and being a pro-choice voice in your community.

Although I will no longer be serving in a formal role with KRCRC after April, I will still be involved in reproductive justice work in general in our community. I look forward to crossing paths with many of you in the future!

In the meantime, please stay in touch with KRCRC, always reach out to us with your ideas and feedback, and keep fighting the good fight!

Caitlin



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Notes from KRCRC's New Board Chair

By Cherokee Schill

A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. – Matthew 5:14-15

Greetings, KRCRC supporters! I am pleased to have been elected chair of the KRCRC board of directors.

A little about myself. I spent a large part of my youth as a missionary and evangelical preacher. Even then I had a different view of the gospel as compared to my male and female contemporaries. There was a point in my life where I was challenged with a "truth" from scripture and, always one to research all sides of an opinion before accepting it as a fact, I set out on a yearlong bible study.

Although my religious journey has led me to choose not to practice any faith, I am excited to be a part of the KRCRC interfaith coalition because I know that there are denominations and people of all faiths (or no faith) that believe religion and reproductive freedom should not be exclusive. And I'm excited to be a part of KRCRC's work to spread the message that women's lives, health, and choices matter – that's a message that all of us can get behind.

We are very fortunate to live in the United States and have the protection of the U.S. Constitution. I see the anti-choice movement as an assault on that foundation of personal liberty. We each have our own path to follow, and

we are free to believe or to not believe; to abort or not to abort. The choice is ours and our reasons are our own. We promote the respect of each person's individuality by acknowledging that we don't have the right to force our will on others.

I look forward to serving you as KRCRC board chair. With your support we will continue the good work that others have done before us. We will expand our work to educate and mobilize Kentuckians in defense of reproductive choice. I am honored to work with you as we lift up our state to be "a light unto the world" – a shining light that is proactive and affirmative for reproductive freedom.

Cherokee



PPINK Update on the 2015 Kentucky Legislature

By Wanda Savala, Community Engagement Coordinator, Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (PPINK)

This session, 3 anti-reproductive rights bills were introduced in the Kentucky Senate: SB 4, SB 7, and SB 46. Each of these bills was either denied a committee hearing or withdrawn. [To receive the latest updates on reproductive rights in the Kentucky legislature, click here.](#)

So, in 2015, no changes to Kentucky law regarding reproductive rights were approved by the legislature. Even still, these bills represent the type of interference in the doctor-patient relationship that threatens a woman's access to health care. Further, these bills were designed to shame a woman out of her decision to end a pregnancy. As we continue to fight for reproductive rights, we expect challenges like these to surface again.

SB 4 and SB 46 would have mandated an in-person counseling session between a woman and her doctor 24 hours before an abortion procedure. There were no exemptions for victims of rape or incest.

SB 4 passed from the Senate to the House. Once in the House, SB 4 failed to receive a hearing in the House Health and Welfare Committee. SB 46 was withdrawn from the Senate.

If either bill had passed, women seeking abortion services in Kentucky would have had to make two or more separate trips to the provider, or pay the additional costs of overnight lodging. As with most legislation seeking to restrict reproductive rights, these barriers would predominately affect lower-income women who are seeking safe, legal reproductive health care.

SB 7 would have required an ultrasound before an abortion. During the ultrasound, the doctor would have been mandated to give a woman seeking an abortion a "detailed description of the fetus" – whether she wanted to hear it or not. This reality represents an undue emotional burden on women exercising their right to abortion care. It interferes with the doctor-patient relationship and tries to introduce shame where none should exist.



SB 7 passed from the Senate to the House. Once in the House, SB 7 did not receive a hearing in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

Though the Kentucky legislature halted the progress of these bills, we must remain vigilant and proactive during the rest of the session. [Sign up for updates on reproductive rights in the Kentucky legislature now.](#)

Contribute to KRCRC through your employer!

By Caitlin Willenbrink, KRCRC Board member

For many of us, pro-choice politics aren't exactly break-room chatter material at our places of work. However, did you know many employers have built-in giving campaigns that allow you to designate a portion of your paycheck to a charity of your choice? Some employers may even match your contribution! We encourage you to explore this option -- it's just another quick, easy way to support KRCRC.

Check with your employer whether an employee giving program or a match program is available and how to take advantage of it. Many employers work with a local United Way to process donations as well; if you opt for this approach, just be sure to designate us on any required paperwork, as Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, tax ID number 61-1251771. Also remember that KRCRC is a 501c3 non-profit organization, so your donation is tax-deductible regardless of how you convey it to us.



Roe v. Wade events celebrate choice...

by Caitlin Willenbrink, KRCRC Board Chair

At the end of January, KRCRC was fortunate to participate in not one, but three events commemorating the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. These events raised funds, awareness, and even some protests -- but overall they were great successes for our organization and the local pro-choice and reproductive justice community.

We helped kick off the weekend of remembrance and action on Sat. Jan. 24, with a collaborative fundraiser between six reproductive rights and justice groups working in our state: KRCRC, ACLU of Kentucky Reproductive Freedom Project, A Fund Inc., Louisville Clinic Escorts, Kentucky Health Justice Network, and Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky. This informal event brought together activists

for an evening of food, fun, and taking a break from our challenging work of defending choice. Anti-choice protesters turned up at the event too -- luckily, our celebration easily drowned out their preaching!

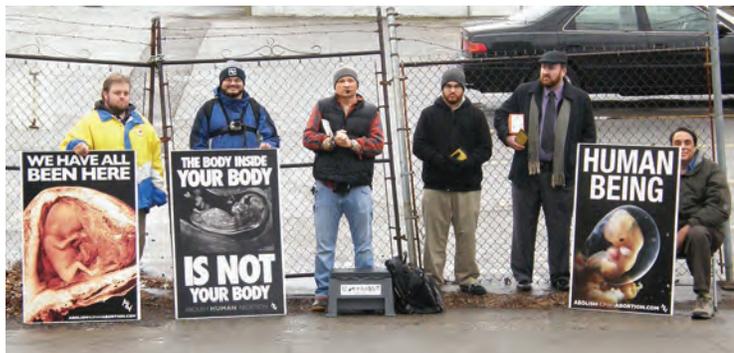
Protesters joined us again on Sunday, Jan. 25 for KRCRC's solo event, *Commemorate the Achievement, Envision the Future*, but once again, supporters of choice turned out in even greater force: over 50 guests joined us for an interfaith celebration full of song, prayer, and conversation. Representatives from Planned Parenthood, ACLU of Kentucky, A Fund Inc., and Kentucky Health Justice Network staffed interactive tables where attendees could get more in-depth information and take action about different

At right, the social hall at First Unitarian Church was a beehive of activity for Roe v. Wade Day.

Below, attendees were treated to inspiring words as well as music from (from left) Rev. Dawn Cooley of First Unitarian; Cantor Sharon Hordes; KRCRC Board Chair Caitlin Willenbrink; and Rev. Molly Casteel.



PHOTO COURTESY THE LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL



Our event drew six male anti-abortion protesters outside.

Inside and on the porch, eight volunteer Clinic Escorts lent their presence for our security. From left, escorts Debbie, Maggie and Pat.



... and look to the future

facets of abortion access, such as funding and the Hyde Amendment, the legislative landscape around abortion rights, and faith communities' support for abortion rights.

A display by KRCRC also encouraged attendees to converse and envision a future where reproductive justice is a reality: where abortion care is accessible and affordable, where crisis pregnancy centers are required to advertise truthfully that they do not provide abortions, and more medical professionals can perform abortions thereby making the procedure more readily available. This event was a great success, even getting favorable [coverage from the Louisville Courier-Journal](#).



At the Kentucky Health Justice Network table, Bree Pearsall (at left) and Pat Canon (above) speak with attendees.

Cont. on page 6



At left, KRCRC Board member (now Board Chair) Cherokee Schill (in black) discusses a display showing what the future of Reproductive Justice in Kentucky *could* look like.



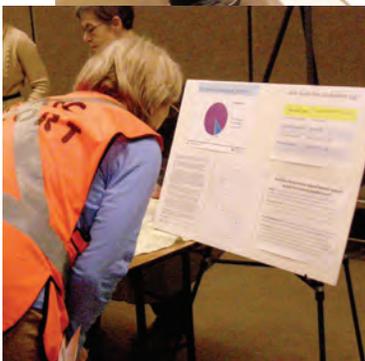
Above, Derek Selznick of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project talks with attendees.



At left, Wanda Savala of PPINK speaks with A Fund's Kate Cunningham.



Above left, at the KRCRC table, Nancy M. talks with KRCRC Treasurer Laurie Kaplin.



Left, escort Linda S. gets a close look at a display.

At right, Rev. Millie Peters staffs a table for the recently formed chapter of Concerned Clergy for Choice of Kentucky.



Roe v Wade *Cont. from page 5.*

Finally, on Monday Jan. 26, KRCRC participated in a panel on the Roe decision presented by the Metropolitan Louisville Women’s Political Caucus, joined by Planned Parenthood and the Louisville Metro Office for Women. Some members of the bipartisan caucus were already well versed in the state of reproductive freedom in Kentucky,

and others came with insightful questions and led a rich discussion on why abortion access is a critical component of political equality for women. Thanks to all the individuals and organizations that helped make the Roe v. Wade weekend a success! We look forward to celebrating again with you next year.



❖ RALLY FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ❖
Frankfort, Kentucky • February 26, 2015 • Organized by ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project



Snow covered the Capitol grounds on the day of the rally.



Several dozen students from the Muhammad Ali Center Council of Students (MACCS) in Louisville made the trip to Frankfort in support of reproductive rights, joining other ralliers in the Capitol Rotunda.

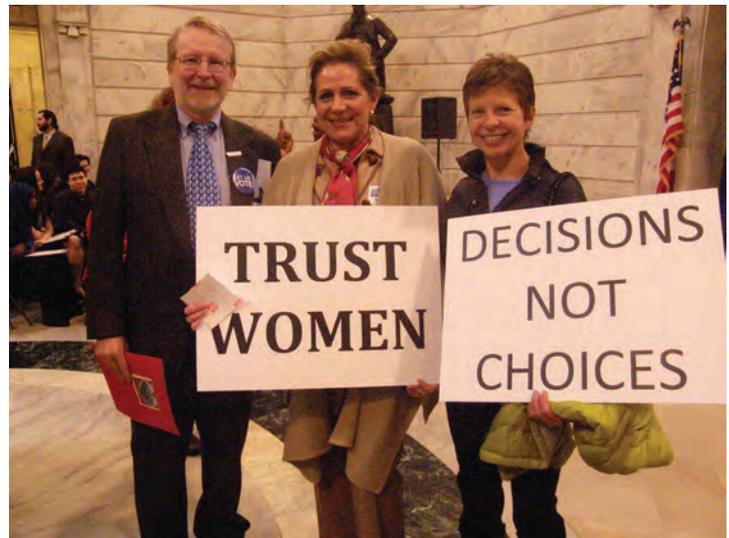


At left, Rep. Mary Lou Marzian addresses the crowd.

Below, Brown H.S. senior Chelsea Wilson speaks, as organizer Derek Selznick of the ACLU RFP looks on.



Below, Rev. Elwood Sturtevant, Cindy Smith, and Kim Greene.



Helping KRCRC at Kroger Just Got Easier!

Kroger has stopped their gift card program; if you've had a KRCRC Kroger gift card in the past, thanks for your help and you can spend what's on it, but KRCRC no longer receives a percent of your purchases from the gift card.

Instead, your regular Kroger Plus Card can now help KRCRC every time you swipe it for a purchase!

Here's how to make it happen, in 5 MINUTES or less:

- 1. Register your current Kroger Plus Card at www.kroger.com.** The website will walk you through creating an online Kroger account (easy!).
- 2. Link your Kroger Plus card to the account.** Once you've got an account and it's linked to your card. . .
- 3. Hover over "Community" near top of screen and click on "Community Rewards."**
- 4. Click "Enroll Now" and select KRCRC, #11048, from the organizations.**

You're done! And KRCRC will start receiving a percentage of your spending at Kroger EVERY TIME YOU SHOP (or gas up) THERE – with no more effort from you.



Take the 5 minutes today to help us in our work for reproductive freedom and justice in Kentucky!

Cash Flow Statement

By Laurie Kaplin, KRCRC Treasurer

Dear KRCRC supporters,

In the interest of transparency and financial stewardship, we are sharing with you a report of KRCRC's income and expenses for the most recently completed fiscal year.

As you can see, your donations made a big difference in our ongoing newsletter and State Fair engagement, special programs like the annual Roe v. Wade commemoration, and our ability to support groups providing direct services and reproductive freedom advocacy in Kentucky.

Please feel free to contact us at info@krcrc.org if you have questions about this report.

INFLOWS

Donations (cash & check donations)	7,750.05
Network for Good donations	375.00
Fundraising Income (Auction proceeds)	2,158.00
iGive Income (percentage income from web sales)	25.34
Kroger Cards	135
Kroger Card Rebate Income	1,619.51
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$12,062.90

OUTFLOWS

Charity (A-Fund, ACLU, ASK, KSN, MN RCRC, Women's Center, etc.)	750.00
Donation Fees (Network for Good fees)	13.50
Dues & Subscriptions (Center for Non-Profit Excellence)	50.00
Event (Roe v Wade - "After Tiller" showing)	538.01
Fundraising Expense (Silent Auction fees)	320.64
Licenses and Permits (KY Annual Report & bulk mail permit)	235.00
Meals & Entertain (Clergy Lunch, EMW Apprec, Escort breakfasts, etc.)	461.35
Office Supplies	25.74
Postage and Delivery (VFC newsletter, PO Box rental, thank you's, etc.)	2,568.91
Print Service (VFC newsletter, flyers, pamphlets, letterhead, etc.)	6,100.56
State Fair (booth rental, supplies, admissions & insurance)	1,273.96
Training Subsidy ("Take Root" conference - chair & 3 KHJN staffers)	300.00
Utilities (Phone service & internet URL)	150.37

TOTAL OUTFLOWS **\$12,788.04**

OVERALL TOTAL **\$-725.14**

2014 Ending Bank Account Balance **\$6,116.94**



**Kentucky Religious Coalition
for Reproductive Choice
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Religious Community in Support of an Individual's Right to Choose!



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On Feb.26, Reproductive Rights Lobby Day in Frankfort, KRCRC board members delivered copies of our petition regarding "truth in advertising" by CPCs, Crisis Pregnancy Centers, to state legislators and executives. Here, KRCRC Board member Cherokee Schill delivers copies of the petition to Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen's office in the Capitol building.