

"We want better reasons for having children than not knowing how to prevent them." — Dora Russell

Voice for Choice

Newsletter of the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Summer 2015

The EACH Woman Act – A Vital Step in the Right Direction

By Cherokee Schill, KRCRC Board Chair

The Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act, or the EACH Woman Act, would ensure coverage for abortion for every woman, however much she earns or however she is insured. The act was introduced in early July by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and Congresswoman Diana DeGette (D-CO), with over seventy Congressional co-sponsors and with the support of thirty-six women's health, rights, and justice advocacy organizations.

For too long men have decided the fate of women in America. The EACH Woman Act would level the playing field for women by granting them the right to have their healthcare choices fully funded. It is every woman's autonomous right to seek healthcare options which best serves her needs; no matter her income level.



Photo by John Nelson photography, <http://johnnelsonphoto.com/>, and All* Above All

For too long the Hyde Amendment has been used to cripple the individual liberty of economically disadvantaged women. "I would certainly like to prevent, if I could legally, anybody

Cont. on page 5.

Planned Parenthood Attack Campaign: Not Letting the Facts Get in the Way of Your Story

by Jon O'Brien, President, Catholics for Choice

The trick of a carnival huckster is to distract you with the right hand so you don't see what the left hand is doing. The firestorm over the latest attack on healthcare provider Planned Parenthood is a classic example of how you can manufacture outlandish claims hidden by a mirage of genuine care and concern. In response to an attack video released earlier this week by an extreme group of anti-abortion activists, Christopher Hale penned a piece that tries to deceive the reader by claiming that Planned Parenthood did something wrong. In reality, his article is just part of an elaborate smokescreen that the antiabortion movement is using to distract the media and politicians.

Hale's organization, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, is part of an effort to defund and discredit Planned Parenthood. In fact, Catholics in Alliance for the Common

Good is so hell-bent on making abortion illegal they went so far as to equate a woman's abortion decision with torture and war. Considering this is his organization's starting position, it's hard to believe anything that Hale tells us is objective.

Cont. on page 7.

STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
KY State Fair: Aug. 20-30, 2015

We need YOUR help to staff the KRCRC fair booth!

Free admission & parking for volunteers. And, this year, something new and fun!
– our **Spinning Wheel of Knowledge!** Details on p. 2.

Something Old, Something New for Volunteers: Kentucky State Fair Aug. 20-30

Educational “Gaming Wheel” to add fun, learning to this year’s booth

By Carol Savkovich, KRCRC Board

The Kentucky State Fair, KRCRC’s biggest outreach event of the year, is almost here -- August 20 through 30, 11 full days with a total of 88 volunteer shifts for us to fill at the our booth. *KRCRC needs your help!!* No experience required, just your commitment to choice.

We’ve got some things that stay the same: 3 hour shifts (9-noon, noon-3, 3-6, and 6-9 weeknights, 6-10 Fridays and Saturdays) with 2 people each; free fair entry and free parking (a \$20 value!) for our volunteers.

And one new, very fun thing this year: we’ll be featuring a fun spinning “gaming wheel” — you know the type, clack-clack-clack-clack til it stops at a number — oh, you got Number 5? Your question is, “About how much do taxpayers save for every public dollar invested in United States family planning services? A) \$3.00 B) \$5.00 C) \$7.00” (Right, C, \$7!)

We think this will be a great way to stop passersby, give them a bit of education and give them a prize for trying (an “I’m a Fan of Reproductive Freedom” hand fan), and will be a fun way for booth volunteers to interact with people. We hope the booth time will fly as fast as the wheel spins!

As always, there are lots of fun events and concerts at the fair you may want to plan your shift(s) around. Check out <http://www.kystatefair.org/> to see what’s coming!



Will you help us keep our booth staffed during the fair? And maybe also sign up a friend or family member with you? Email KRCRC at info@krcc.org or call 866-606-0988, and Carol or Rita will get right back to you to set up a time and get tickets and fair instructions out to you. Thank you, volunteers!!

Work Group to Hold Forum August 11 Discussing Sex Ed for JCPS

By Tamarra Wieder, Director of External Affairs, PPINK

Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (PPINK) is leading a work group with the ACLU of Kentucky, Concerned Clergy for Choice, and the Center for Women & Families to raise awareness for comprehensive sexuality education in the Jefferson County Public Schools. Our work group is being facilitated by a community health coach from County Health Rankings and Roadmaps.

Currently, no standardized curriculum exists for teaching sex education in Louisville. Some students get sex education while others receive none, or outdated information that’s limited in scope and efficacy.

The work group is one piece of our initiative; we are also forming a broader coalition to be inclusive and representative of the Louisville community that will bring about this change from the ground up. To be successful this campaign needs support of parents, students, teachers

and school administrators, people like you advocating and educating your community about the facts.

Our first forum on July 8th was a huge success. The conference room at Planned Parenthood was filled to capacity with eager parents, clergy, and community members just like you.

Mark your calendar to join us at 5 pm on Aug. 11 for our forum, to be held at the Center for Women and Families, 927 S. Second St. in downtown Louisville. We’d love to see you and five of your friends.

For more information on what you can do to help and for resources on how to talk about sex education to your peers, congregation, and community, contact Tamarra Wieder, director of external affairs for PPINK at tamarra.wieder@ppink.org



**= \$\$\$
for
KRCRC!**

Helping KRCRC Through Your Kroger Card – August is “Re-Up” Month!

Do you shop at Kroger, with a Kroger Plus card? You can be giving KRCRC a financial boost at *no* cost to you! (And we can use the help!)

Kroger’s “Community Rewards” program returns a small part of every dollar you spend at Kroger (including at the gas tank) to KRCRC. All you have to do is

- ★ Sign up, designating KRCRC as your charity of choice, and
- ★ Use your Kroger card as usual all year!

NOTE – if you have signed up before, Kroger requires that you **RE-ENROLL** as of now (August) for the coming year!

Here’s how to enroll (or re-enroll):

1. Sign up for a Kroger Plus Card. If you already have a Kroger Plus Card then proceed to step two.
2. Go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> and sign in or create your account.
3. Scroll down to “Community Rewards” and click “Enroll”.
4. Search for “KRCRC” or enter “11048” (without the quotes). Select the button next to KRCRC and then click “Enroll”.
5. Shop!

Please take a couple of minutes NOW to sign up to help KRCRC for the coming year, so we can continue our pro-choice work in Kentucky!

Do You Know The Facts?

Take the quiz to find out

1. About how much do taxpayers save for every public dollar invested in United States family planning services?

- a) \$3.00
- b) \$5.00
- c) \$7.00

4. How many lives were saved through the use of modern contraceptives in developing countries in 2014?

- a) 0
- b) 600,000
- c) 1.2 million

2. How many cervical cancer deaths were prevented as a result of publicly funded family planning visits in the United States in 2010?

- a) 0
- b) 2,100
- c) 5,700

5. In the United States, the decline in teen pregnancy rates to the lowest levels in recorded history is ...

- a) ...mostly because of contraception.
- b) ...mostly because of abstinence.
- c) ...equally because of abstinence and contraception.

3. What percentage of United States abortion patients are already mothers?

- a) 13%
- b) 32%
- c) 61%

See Page 7 For Answers



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.

PAGE 4 The Times, They are A'Changing...

By Fausta Luchini, Clinic Escort

If you heard Bob Dylan singing as you read that title, you might remember pre *Roe v Wade* days. The bad ole days when “giving it up for adoption” and “shotgun weddings” were the choices we talked about. I won't bore you with the whole “we protested, we marched, we sang Peter, Paul, and Mary songs until they passed *Roe v Wade*,” but we did.

And times did change. They changed, and changed some more, and years flew by.

In 2009, I started escorting at the abortion clinic. Appalled by the protesters, upset about TRAP (*Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers*) laws, worried about the future of access to abortion, I felt like escorts were the only people aware of what the pro-life groups were doing. It seemed like most of the other people I knew were oblivious. When I told them about it, they didn't seem to care.

That's changing too. There are so many articles, so much information, so many more people concerned and involved. Changes happen every day.

Bills are introduced - waiting times, admitting privileges, mandated scripts for health care providers - they're introduced, passed, not passed, appealed, blocked, allowed - I need a scoreboard to keep up with it. (Seriously, wouldn't that be cool?)

Outside the clinic, fewer people line the sidewalk saying the rosary, but new groups gather. The “Abolish Human Abortion” group may be the most extreme.¹ They don't call themselves “pro-life” and they're against the pro-lifers' strategy of chipping away at abortion rights little by little. They want all abortion to be illegal - no exceptions. Abortion, they say, is like slavery or the holocaust. It is always wrong.

The way we view women who have abortions is changing. People share their abortion stories, and that helps destigmatize and reduces shame. And Purvi Patel is serving time for a stillbirth.² She's not the only woman who's been charged with a crime because of a pregnancy outcome, and she won't be the last. So we make progress, and we lose ground.

Seven years ago, at a demonstration in Libertyville, anti-abortion protesters were asked how women should be punished if they have an abortion.³ It's very fun to watch the video of their discomfort as they answer. From “I don't know, I've never thought about it,” to “Well, they've been punished enough,” or “God will punish them,” it's clear that

they don't want the woman punished.

That's in direct contrast to the Abolish Human Abortion folks. They not only believe abortion is murder, but preach that women who have an abortion should be punished like any other murderer. This attitude may reflect, in part, some broader cultural changes.

Once upon a time, women in the United States rarely went to prison. According to *The Sentencing Project*, in 1980, only 15,118 women were in prison. By 2010, that number had increased 646%. *Six hundred and forty six percent*. The number of women in prison rose to 112,797.⁴ This makes it easier for me to envision a dystopian future - in the style of *The Handmaid's Tale* - and worries me.

At the same time, more women are learning about the use of misoprostol to induce an early abortion. Women on Waves is working hard to educate us on how to safely abort with miso and cytotec.⁵ Even misoprostol alone provides a relatively safe and inexpensive means for a DIY abortion, as some women in Brazil realized a number of years ago. The first “abortion drone” just dropped medication into Poland to increase access there.

As access to abortion becomes more limited in the US, women here are more likely to turn to using medication on their own. Maybe that's progress; I think it's hard to know yet what the long term impact is going to be. In the short term, I worry about legal repercussions and people suffering negative effects if they don't use the medication correctly.

And now there is the EACH Woman Act.⁶ I am so excited that this is even a thing. According to the Center for Reproductive Rights:

The EACH Woman Act would restore coverage for abortion services to women enrolled in insurance plans and programs offered or managed by the federal government, including Medicaid, Medicare, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Indian Health Services, and TRICARE, the federal health care program for military families. The bill would also prohibit political interference with decisions by private health insurance companies to offer coverage of abortion care.

It would take an actual miracle for this bill to pass. But still, it's exciting that it's been introduced. It gives me hope that we are really beginning to stand up for what's right.

Times, They are A'Changin... *Cont. from page 4.*

In the meantime, the escorts are still holding space for the clients coming to the clinic. Five mornings a week, we ignore the bullies and walk with the women. I escort on Saturdays, and some weeks it's "not bad," while some weeks it's "a zoo out there." Either way, it's unfortunate that people have to walk through that mess just to get to their doctor's appointment.

Escorting is still the one most immediately satisfying thing I do each week. If you're interested in trying it, you can email us at everysaturdaymorning@gmail.com. We particularly need people who are willing to escort on week day mornings - Tuesday through Friday.

But whether you ever escort or not, I'm deeply appreciative of the work all of you at KRCRC do to support the escorts and to support abortion access. Thank you.

- 1 <http://abolishhumanabortion.com> *Abolish Human Abortion*
- 2 http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/01/magazine/purvi-patel-could-be-just-the-beginning.html?_r=0 *One of many articles about Purvi Patel*
- 3 https://youtu.be/Uk6t_tdOkvo *The Libertyville Abortion Demonstration*
- 4 http://www.sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/cc_incarcerated_women_factsheet_sep24.sp.pdf
- 5 <http://www.womenonwaves.org> *Women on Waves*
- 6 <http://jezebel.com/each-woman-act-would-lift-federal-bans-on-abortion-cove-1716544424>

.....

The EACH Woman Act *Cont. from page 1.*

having an abortion: a rich woman, a middle class woman, or a poor woman. Unfortunately, the only vehicle available is the [Medicaid] bill," said former Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) as he put forward the signature legislation still bearing his name.

The EACH Woman Act would make a meaningful change for women and their families, creating two important standards for reproductive health.

First, the bill respects that every woman should be able to make her own decisions about pregnancy. If a woman gets her care or insurance through the federal government, she will be covered for all pregnancy-related care, including abortion.

Second, the EACH Woman Act prohibits political interference by Federal, state and local legislators with decisions of private health insurance companies to offer coverage for abortion care.

A lot of hard work has been poured into creating the EACH Woman ACT. Now we need you to lend your voice and support to such a momentous opportunity for the betterment of women's lives.

Write to your state representative, write to your congressman, write letters to the editor, but above all, WRITE! Our voices must be heard above and beyond the din of those who would forever keep women down.

You can track the progress of the EACH Woman Act, and read the entire text of the bill, here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2972>

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

Top 2 Reasons
to send us your email address:

1. So you can **get our newsletter by email**, saving KRCRC money on printing and postage – money we can use to advance reproductive justice in Kentucky.
2. So you can receive **ACTION ALERTS** when bills affecting choice are up before the legislature, in time to make a difference with your grassroots voice!

Email us at info@krcrc.org; be sure to include your name.

PAGE 6 Responsibility and Choice

Notes from KRCRC's Board Chair

By Cherokee Schill



My entire 8th grade class, which met in the attic of the gym, was comprised of nine students, of which I was one. Girls outnumbered the boys.

Our teacher, Mr. "T", was asking us to select a classroom president for the year. Two boys were running for class president that

year, and neither one of them was very well liked by the class.

We were each handed a slip of paper to vote, and were asked to choose between the two boys who were running. Each boy was cajoling and begging for our vote; each boy made us promises of a better school year if we would only choose him as class president.

Those two boys remind me of the anti-choice protestors. They cajole and beg each and every person. They claim that if a clinic patient would only choose their way, they (the patient) would have a better life.

Votes were cast, paper slips were collected, and Mr. "T" began to count. He ceremoniously opened each paper and began separating them into two piles. First one and then another. As our teacher opened up another slip of paper he paused and looked at the other two papers. Our entire class watched with baited breath. Mr. "T" scooped up the two piles and continued to open and count but this time it was clear that he was doing it in his head.

After the last piece of paper was tallied, our teacher stood up and placed both hands behind his back. One of the candidates, who had been looking very confident up to this point, began to lose a little of the sparkle in his eyes.

Mr. "T" cleared his throat and said "The choosing of a president isn't always a choice between two candidates. Sometimes the voice of the people will be heard over those who are running for office." At this point, Mr. "T" looked at our classmate Jacob – who had not been running – and announced him our new class president.

Jacob had won by popular vote. We girls had outnumbered the boys, and we were not pleased with either candidate. The girls had secretly banded together and made a pact to vote for a boy we liked – who himself had chosen not to run for class president.

Mr. "T" released the tension-filled classroom for recess. We all scattered for the gymnasium floor. The two boys who had run for class president were mad at us, and the two of them stood in the corner of the gymnasium and cast scornful looks our way. Our group of girls were dancing around Jacob in joyful celebration. Jacob appeared to have the weight of the world on his shoulders and we were a bit disappointed in his lack of joviality. Jacob excused himself from our group and disappeared.

The bell rang, signaling the end of recess, and we dutifully made our way back to our attic classroom. Jacob and Mr. "T" were waiting for the class as we filed in and claimed our seats. I will never forget as Mr. "T" placed his hand on Jacob's shoulder and explained that the two boys who had run for class president had failed to win the hearts of their voters, and that this should be a lesson on the power of women and the vote. Mr. "T" also went on to explain that class president was a responsible position, and Jacob had decided that he was not ready for such a responsible position. Jacob knew his limits and this was a responsibility he was not ready or prepared for. There was no shame for Jacob. Only a proud acknowledgment by someone who knew his limits.

When I see the men and women who are shamed by anti-choice protestors, I think of Jacob. Jacob was more of a man, and was far more responsible in declining the position of class president than the two boys who were running. Jacob knew that he would not be capable of serving the needs of his student body, and that to do right by us he would decline the position.

It is this that I want you to think about: It takes more responsibility to say "I'm not ready for this" than it does to knuckle under peer pressure and keep a pregnancy for which you are not ready or able to be responsible for.

A person seeking an abortion is one of the most responsible people I know. They understand the great responsibility that bringing a child into the world is. They know that by waiting for a time when they are mature and capable of taking care of such a grave and wonderful responsibility, they will be bringing a healthy, happy, and well cared-for child into the world. Responsibility like this is the cornerstone of building a loving family. Anything less and you are cheating yourself and any child you would bring into the world out of the happiest of all possible futures.

So here's to all the brave and responsible men who "man up" and walk with their mates into the abortion clinic, past scornful people who are hell bent on shaming and bullying those who say "I am not ready or prepared to take on this responsibility".

Planned Parenthood *Cont. from page 1.*

Planned Parenthood provides critical reproductive healthcare services for some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our American society--traditionally underserved populations. It is an organization that epitomizes the social good. Hale reveals his inconsistency as he claims to stand up for the “poor, the unemployed, the uninsured, immigrants, the LGBT community” and women, even as he fights to deny them equal access to the healthcare they need--and deserve. As Catholics, we have an obligation to stand up for the conscience rights of all individuals when it comes to personal, private decisions such as abortion. That he seeks to undermine and deny those choices for some of the most vulnerable American women is downright despicable.

The Center for Medical Progress has the same end goal as Hale’s organization--and everyone in the rabid antiabortion movement. The Center for Medical Progress made the misleading video in the most explosive manner possible to ensure Planned Parenthood will be targeted by all of the antiabortion candidates as we move towards the next presidential election. The goal is deeply political, and it’s not grounded in reality. The truth is: nowhere in the video does a staff member from Planned Parenthood discuss “selling” fetal tissue. Claiming that they did does not make it so, and certainly does not make it truthful. In fact, as a Catholic who cares about the common good, I think it’s critical that tissue is donated to help find cures for diseases like Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. I believe it’s moral, ethical--and downright necessary--when done as part of a patient’s wishes and within the legal guidelines.

It is ironic that Christopher Hale is a cofounder of a website called “Millennial.” I know his extreme positions on abortion and contraception are not shared by young Catholics today. In fact, recent polling on Catholic Millennials clearly shows that this generation does not stand with Hale, and instead has a much more generous view of women’s autonomy and freedom of conscience. For example, only 17 percent of Catholic Millennials believe abortion should be illegal, while a full 82 percent believe it should be legal in at least some cases.

I hope that our political leaders can see past the smoke and mirrors of the Center for Medical Progress, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good and their ultraconservative allies. As we look to the next presidential election and beyond, it’s critical that Catholics and others who believe in freedom of conscience for all speak up for the women who need abortions and with the providers who care for them. The social justice that drives our Catholic faith expects nothing less of each of us.

Answer Key

1. About how much do taxpayers save for every public dollar invested in United States family planning services?

c) \$7.00

While opponents of public programs like to talk about how much such programs cost taxpayers, they often ignore the fact that investments in family planning actually save money—\$7.09 for every \$1.00 spent, according to our most recent estimates. While saving public dollars, these programs also yield extraordinary health benefits, including the prevention of 2.2 million unintended pregnancies in 2010.

2. How many cervical cancer deaths were prevented as a result of publicly funded family planning visits in the United States in 2010?

b) 2,100

Publicly funded family planning services are about more than just contraception. For many women across the country, their visit to a family planning provider is also where they receive other critical services, including Pap and HPV testing and HPV vaccination—all of which contribute to preventing deaths due to cervical cancer. We estimate that these efforts saved 2,100 lives in 2010.

3. What percentage of United States abortion patients are already mothers?

c) 61%

Antiabortion activists often suggest that having an abortion is at odds with being a mother. However, more than 60% of United States abortion patients already have one or more children. Moreover, when we asked women why

they were choosing abortion, many indicated that having a baby right now would prevent them from providing adequate care and financial security to the children they already have.

4. How many lives were saved through the use of modern contraceptives in developing countries in 2014?

c) 1.2 million

By enabling women in the developing world to avoid unintended pregnancies, use of modern contraceptives in 2014 averted the deaths of 100,000 mothers and 1.1 million newborns. If the need for modern contraception was fully met, the number of deaths averted would increase to 170,000 mothers and 1.6 million newborns.

5.) In the United States, the decline in teen pregnancy rates to the lowest levels in recorded history is ...

a) ...mostly because of contraception.

Promoters of premarital abstinence claim that historic drop in teen pregnancy is due to “abstinence-only” sex education programs. However, Guttmacher researchers have found that the decline in teen pregnancy has little or nothing to do with teens’ delaying sex and can instead be linked to improvements in teens’ contraceptive use.



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



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SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday October 18
6:30-8:30pm, in Louisville

LUMINARIA

**An evening to show appreciation
to our Kentucky pro-choice lawmakers**
Details in our Fall newsletter in early October.