

# Women's Health Care and 2011 Legislation

A Brief Summary of Proposed Legislation

# Redefining Rape

- Goal of altering the definition of rape to include *forcibly* was to limit situations in which women could utilize federal funding to obtain an abortion which are very rare now and only include rape, incest and to save the life of the woman.
  - > The proposed bills stated that a woman must be 'forcibly raped', (e.g. beaten, brutalized) to qualify for funding
  - > This would have redefined rape legally, and done away with consent law
  - > Question: Isn't rape by definition an action *forcibly* performed?

# In the State of Georgia...

- ◉ Legislators are attempting to change the language of law so that women who are the victims of rape, stalking, and domestic violence are no longer referred to as 'Victims' but rather 'Accusers'
- ◉ Victims of Burglary and other non-gendered crimes will continue to be known as 'Victims'

# In South Dakota...

- A Bill was proposed that will make it legal for the immediate family of a pregnant woman to kill anyone who provides her with an abortion, all in the name of protecting her 'unborn child'

# The Pence Amendment

- ◉ Strips funding from Planned Parenthood and reinstates the Global Gag Order permanently
  - > Planned Parenthood uses federal dollars to perform cancer screenings, and STI and STD testing; NO FEDERAL DOLLARS are used to perform abortions
  - > Organizations around the world that provide essential health services *would be cut off from any funding* if they even provide information about abortion

# A Few Statistics

- ◉ There are 10 Planned Parenthood Centers in Vermont
- ◉ Planned Parenthood serves 3 million Americans
  - > It serves 21,000 Vermonters

- ◎ Last Year Vermont Planned Parenthood Provided:
  - > 27,394 STI Screenings
  - > 7,848 Cervical Cancer Screenings
  - > 9,617 Breast Exams
  - > Over 16,000 Contraceptive Visits

# Financial Assistance

- ◉ Planned Parenthood Provides low-cost and no-cost health care coverage on a sliding scale
  - > With the budget cuts, the sliding scale will essentially disappear.
    - 48% of Planned Parenthoods Patrons will no longer be able to access their services and will lose their access to critical health care



# A Little Clarification...

- ◉ The Hyde Amendment, enacted in 1976, bans the use of federal funds for abortions excluding instances of Rape, Incest, and threat to the life of the woman
  - > THIS MEANS THAT NO FUNDS ARE BEING CUT FROM ABORTIONS. THIS AMENDMENT HAS NO IMPACT ON THE FUNDING OF ABORTIONS OUTSIDE OF THOSE DUE TO INCEST, RAPE AND THREAT TO THE WOMAN'S LIFE.

# In Conclusion...

- ◉ Through the passing of the Pence Amendment we will most likely see:
  - > An increase in sexually transmitted infections and diseases
  - > In increase in unwanted pregnancies
  - > An increase in untreatable cancers
  - > A decrease in Women with Health Care Coverage
  - > More uninformed and consequently at-risk Students

- ◎ Things we WON'T see if the Pence Amendment is Enacted:
  - > More Jobs
  - > A Reduced Deficit
  - > Fewer Abortions

# Food For Thought

- If the Pence Amendment is Enacted, this year we will save approximately \$75 Million by not funding Planned Parenthood
- This would fund 3 Hours and 51 Minutes of the War on Terror
- What are YOUR priorities?