



McHenry County Citizens for Choice

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NEWSLETTER

Produced by McHenry County Citizens for Choice Inc

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

The height of summer vacation time might seem an unlikely time to strategize and review the number and scope of challenges that confront the pro-choice community. But our opponents never rest (especially not on Sundays) If pro-choice women are to ever achieve our goal we need to follow the example of our forebears by taking personal risks and applying the same level of energy and commitment to the cause of reproductive freedom as the suffragists did in achieving the right to vote.

THE CRITICAL NOVEMBER MID TERM ELECTION

Illinois Governor

Focus like a laser on the clear choice for Governor beginning with this mailing. Review the colored insert, inform yourself and pass the word.

Anti-choice Republican candidate Bill Brady has promised in writing to anti-abortion groups that he would use his power as Governor to implement their agenda via executive orders, proclamations and staff appointments.

Pro-Choice State Legislators

Nothing highlighted the need for pro-choice legislators in Springfield like the failure to bring **HB 6205, Reproductive Health & Access Act (RHAA)** to the floor for a vote. Despite herculean efforts to educate and inform citizens, to gain the support of women's groups and medical professionals, and obtain approval of the Health and Human Services Committee, it was determined that passage in the General Assembly was not possible.

This resulted in a double loss because it is only when actual votes are taken that Illinois women will know which representatives really support women's reproductive health. If there is no vote, there is no record.

A review of what RHAA would have done:

- protected comprehensive health care for all in Illinois.
- ensured that politicians and special interest groups would not be allowed to interfere with the rights of individuals to make decisions about their reproductive healthcare.
- required public schools to offer age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive sexual health education. Parents would retain the right to withdraw their children from these classes.
- protected Medicaid eligible individuals from discrimination by ensuring they have access to a full range of reproductive health care.

The campaign for Reproductive Health and Access will continue but elections have consequences - remember to

VOTE PRO-CHOICE

Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion: Status

Last year, after a federal appeals court lifted a decades old injunction, the Illinois ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of medical providers and their teen patients because the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act violates state constitutional guarantees of privacy, equal protection, and due process of law.

In a disappointing development, a state court judge in late March dismissed the case.

Even while ruling in favor of the state, Judge Daniel Riley expressed extreme regret about his decision. He publicly labeled the Parental Notice of Abortion Act an “unfortunate” piece of legislation and described it as irrational. He recognized that some young women would face parental abuse or neglect.

In legalese, he concluded that under Illinois decisional law, plaintiffs mounting a pre-enforcement facial challenge to a state law must show that the law would be unconstitutional in every application. Given the fact that some teens would not be harmed, the challenge could not go forward. The ACLU of Illinois may appeal to the appellate court.

The good news is that the law is still not being enforced so teens can continue to have access to confidential abortion services.

IN THE NEWS

SCOTUS

Keep score with the help of the chart below during confirmation hearings of Elena Kagan for Supreme Court Justice.

The 2010 Supreme Court of the United States		
Justice	Age	Appointed By
<u>Chief Justice John Roberts</u>	55	G.W. Bush
Antonin Scalia	74	Reagan
Anthony Kennedy	74	Reagan
Clarence Thomas	62	G.H.W. Bush
Ruth Bader Ginsburg	77	Clinton
Stephen Breyer	72	Clinton
Samuel Alito	60	G.W. Bush
Sonia Sotomayor	56	Obama
<i>Nominee</i>		
<i>Elena Kagan</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Obama</i>

The Supreme Court’s decisions have a direct impact on the lives of women but it is important to remember that the US Court of Appeals is the end of the line for 98.8% of Federal cases.

The Federal Court System is an independent branch of government but today’s federal courts are dominated by appointments from one political party. Elections and subsequent presidential judicial appointments have consequences.

Remember to vote pro-choice.

FDA

The Food and Drug Administration is set to consider approval for an emergency contraceptive that can be taken five days after sex. It also might be more effective than Plan B. **Ulipristal acetate**, sold under the name **ellaOne** is already approved in Europe as a morning-after pill.

Global Gag Rule

The Global Democracy Promotion Act (GDPA) (HR 4879/ S 311), introduced by Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) would create a permanent legislative barrier to attempts by future administrations to re-instate the Gag Rule which withholds essential medical information.

Military Abortions

Women serving abroad in the military are denied the basic freedom to make their own medical decisions, because abortion is banned at military hospitals and bases. More than 100,000 women including active service members, spouses and dependents are effectively denied access.

There is now a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act that would allow abortions at military hospitals if paid for by private funds. Watch the news for a fight in Congress.

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Thank You!!

For your loyal financial support. If you wish to contribute:

_____ A once a year gift of \$10 in your birth month will provide basic organizational support plus a subscription to our bimonthly newsletter.

_____ \$25 or more gives you benefactor status and the opportunity to increase the scope and activities of MCCC.

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