



McHenry County Citizens for Choice

P.O. Box 16 • Woodstock, Illinois 60098

NEWSLETTER

Produced by McHenry County Citizens for Choice Inc

MIDTERM ELECTION ROUNDUP

Reproductive rights sustained collateral damage as voters concerned mainly over economic issues sent conservative, anti-choice candidates to Congress. When the Republicans take over the House on January 5, 2011 they will start with an agenda to make bans on federal funding of abortion permanent federal law and to defund Planned Parenthood. There will be 242 Republicans and 193 Democrats.

Nationwide Culture War Ahead

Future *Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio)* has repeatedly emphasized his continued commitment to anti-abortion legislation. His website trumpets Boehner's promise that he "won't compromise" on abortion legislation. When the Recovery Act included expanded coverage for family planning services under Medicaid without a waiver from the federal government, it caused such a controversy it was removed. Boehner called these provisions for birth control "controversial." His objection was that it would pave the way for more taxpayer dollars to go to clinics that promote abortions.

Rep Chris Smith (R-NJ) along with *Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)* introduced the **No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (HR5939)** with 185 cosponsors. The current rule preventing most federal funding of abortions, the **Hyde Amendment**, is in actuality a series of negotiated provisions in a series of different spending bills and has to be reauthorized every year. It always forces annual battles depending on who controls Congress and the White House. The amendment has been re-upped every year since 1976. The new Health Reform bill, as it now stands, will make the policies banning abortion funding permanent federal law.

Another major goal of conservative and anti-abortion legislators is to defund Planned Parenthood (PP). Currently about 300 million dollars goes to PP and is monitored so that none of it is used to fund abortions. It pays for things like family planning, condoms, sex education, and other programs that actually reduce the number of abortions. *Rep Mike Pence (R-IND)*, sponsored a bill HR 614 with 103 cosponsors that would cut those funds.

The Senate will have 51 Democrats, 2 Independents (who caucus with the Democrats) and 47 Republicans as the 112th Congress is seated.

On his website *Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)*, expressed support for personhood laws that would be used to challenge the legality of birth control pills and emergency contraception. He opposes any federal funding for abortion and will stop the flow of tax dollars to Planned Parenthood. He "believes we may be able to save millions of lives in the near future by allowing states to pass their own anti-abortion laws."

Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) is on the record, repeatedly for being virulently anti-choice.

Rabid anti-choice *Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)* stoked anti-choice fervor by falsely claiming there would be taxpayer funding for abortion in the Health Reform Bill.

State Activity

In *Colorado, Prop 62*, which would grant a fertilized egg full human rights (more than the woman carrying it) **failed**. This law would have not only been a threat to abortion but to birth control, IVF, and emergency medical treatment for pregnant women. Similar laws in other countries often result in the deaths of women denied life-saving treatment. 72% of the voters voted against it.

Nebraska's "fetal pain" law, a new abortion restriction based on the erroneous assertion that fetuses may feel pain at 20 weeks gestation went into effect October 15, 2010. The Abortion Pain Prevention Act (LB 1103) was signed into law by Gov Heineman and is the first law banning abortion on the basis of fetal pain in the U.S. Expect other states to follow. No indication yet as to whether this law will be challenged.

Elections Have Consequences

For the first time in over 30 years the number of women in Congress will not increase. Of the more than 100 newly elected legislators, 97 are White men, 12 are women. The culture war ahead will mean more litigation in the courts, the need for attention to judicial appointments as well as to candidates entering the pipeline.

Next election:

April 2011, consolidated election for municipal officers, leadership for park districts, library, school and fire districts.

2012 Primary in 13 months!

Health Care Reform Bill & Abortion

“The healthcare reform bill passed by Congress offers a number of good solutions to our nation’s critical health care problems but it also fails in many important respects. The bill contains a sweeping anti-abortion provision. It ultimately achieves the same outcome as the Stupak-Pitts Amendment, namely the likely elimination of all *private* as well as public coverage for abortion. It imposes a bizarre requirement on those who buy coverage through an exchange to write two monthly checks (one for the abortion rider and one for all other health care.) Employers would also have to write two separate checks for each of their employees requesting the rider. This system must be eliminated.”

National Organization of Women (NOW)

“The new health care act segregates private insurance premium funds from taxpayer funds. Individuals would have to pay for abortion coverage by making two separate payments. Private funds would have to be kept in a separate account from federal and taxpayer funds. No health care plan would be required to offer abortion coverage. States could pass legislation choosing to opt out of offering abortion coverage through the exchange. Some have begun to do so.”

Separately, anti-abortion Democrats worked out language with the White House on an executive order that would state that no federal funds can be used to pay for abortions except in the case of rape, incest or health of the mother.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20000846-503544.html

“We regret that a pro-choice president was forced to sign an executive order that further codifies anti-choice language ...originally proposed by Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE). What the executive order did NOT do is include a complete and total ban on private health insurance coverage for abortion that Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) had insisted upon.”

Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Abortion is Healthcare!

10 Reasons why Abortion Should be Covered by Health Insurance.

1. Abortion is legal medical care. Abortion is a legal right and it takes medical care to exercise that right.
2. Abortion is common, mainstream medical care. It is one of the most common surgical procedures in America.
3. Abortion is now broadly covered. Between 50 and 85 percent of women who have private insurance including employer-sponsored plans have coverage for abortion care.
4. Covering abortion does not raise the abortion rate. European countries with national health plans that cover abortions have the lowest abortion rates in the world.
5. Covering abortion makes abortion safer. Out of pocket, abortion can be expensive, and becomes more so as the pregnancy progresses. Women who must “save up” wind up paying more and taking more risk.
6. Covering abortion is acceptable to the public according to polls. Voters opposed reform that would prohibit insurance from covering abortion.
7. Government policies that are based on the theory that some people should not be forced to see their premiums cover things they consider immoral could mean sending us down a slippery “moral slope.” In a democracy, everyone sees their tax dollars go for things they think are wrong. Should people who oppose sex outside of marriage determine who gets covered for childbirth?
8. Some people with a real gut level (but misinformed) ambivalence think, “*I guess abortion should be legal, but should we ‘sanction’ it by paying for it? Isn’t it really ‘elective’?*” Should insurance companies conduct polls to

decide on a majority basis what gets covered? How about obesity related and smoking related diseases. Should there be a cap on care for people over 80 or for premies where the life expectancy is less than 5% ?

9. Without coverage, sex (a natural human drive for most) entails risks. Even with the best prevention measures, there will be unintended pregnancies. Pregnancy entails emotional, financial and psychic costs that will be borne only or largely by the woman. Continuing a pregnancy must be her choice.

10. Abortion is sometimes medically necessary. The government should not be writing regulations for personal medical decisions.

Join Our Information Network

Visit our website!
www.mcccprochoice.org

Get the latest information in the form you prefer. Keep in touch by sending us your:

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
Phone _____

MCCC
P.O. Box 16
Woodstock, IL 60098
Telephone: 815-338-8030
Facsimile: 815-338-7847
Email: choice@mcccprochoice.org

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.

McHenry County Citizens for Choice Inc. is a 501 (c)(4) organization. Contributions are not tax deductible.