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**NARAL Pro-Choice Texas is featured in the award-winning Texas Public Radio series on teen pregnancy, "A Pregnant Pause." Terry Gildea's 3-part series, which aired on KSTX and KTXI in October 2007, recently won a Radio Reporting award from the Texas Public Health Association Media Awards Competition. You can listen to this program online at:**  
<http://www.tpr.org/programs/news.html>

## Updated Report to be Released: "Taxpayer-Funded Crisis Pregnancy Centers in Texas: A Hidden Threat to Women's Health"

Do you know what a crisis pregnancy center is? Did you know that many of them are funded using taxpayer dollars? Do you want to learn more about how these dollars have been used by the Texas Pregnancy Care Network over the past two years, and why NARAL Pro-Choice Texas gives them a failing grade? The 3rd annual update of NPCT's crisis pregnancy center report is our most comprehensive one yet, and we are excited to announce that it's slated to be released this April.

The last version of this report (available for download at [www.prochoicetexas.org](http://www.prochoicetexas.org)) details how during the 2005 Texas legislative session, anti-choice Texas lawmakers forced an unprecedented rider onto the state budget. To date, this rider has cut more than \$3 million from family planning funding, shifting the money from preventive health screening and contraceptive services into unlicensed and unregulated crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs). CPCs frequently provide biased and inaccurate "counseling" without any health care services. Their mission is to dissuade women from choosing safe, legal abortion to terminate an unintended pregnancy.

As a result of these funding cuts an estimated 16,668 low-income women have lost access to preventive health care and family planning

**To date... more than \$3 million [has been cut] from family planning funding, shifting the money from preventive health screening and contraceptive services into unlicensed and unregulated crisis pregnancy centers**

services, according to a projection by the Texas Department of State Health Services in 2005.

This diversion of funds is reckless in a state that ranks:

- 1st in teenage births;
- 1st in repeat births for teens;
- 50th in the percentage of

women of childbearing age who have health insurance;

- 35th in access to prenatal care;
- 45th in women's access to family planning;
- 46th in the percentage of women age 18 and older who have had a Pap smear in the past three years;
- 44th in percent of women above the poverty level.

The 2008 update of NARAL Pro-Choice Texas' CPC report will provide an overview of what a crisis pregnancy center is *and what it isn't*, why public funding for its services is controversial and detrimental to the health of Texas women, and **why Texans should be seriously concerned about the lack of accountability and regulation in this use of millions of dollars of taxpayer money.**

We hope these materials help Texans better understand this hidden threat to the health needs of Texas women and families.

## Marking the 35th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

More information on our Roe v. Wade 35th anniversary event and Nancy Keenan's landmark speech on page 3.



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation is a proud member of Community Shares of Texas. To learn more about donating to NPCT Foundation through workplace giving, visit [www.communitysharestx.org](http://www.communitysharestx.org) or call (800) TX-SHARE.



Nancy Keenan (left) presents guest of honor Dr. Sarah Weddington with a token of our appreciation after the University of Texas event.



NPCT board members and supporters listen to Dr. Weddington speak about her experience arguing Roe v. Wade.



Nancy Keenan (left) poses with University of Texas campus organizer Courtney Stallon.



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# Letter from the Executive Director



Dear friends,

It's only two months into the new year and already the excitement of what 2008 will bring is building. With Texas as a key player in the primaries for the first time in years, I know you can feel the energy surrounding us. In a couple of short weeks, we'll have the opportunity to help determine who the next candidates for president will be. Heady stuff, sure, but it's just the tip of the iceberg.

In the coming months there will be a lot of races to watch, with primaries, run-offs, and general elections. And, with these races, of course, come requests from candidates for your time, your gifts, and your verbal support. We know how important these races are and we encourage you to research the candidates and vote your conscience since these are important choices that will determine what will happen in Texas in the coming years. However, this is only part of the big picture.


It is incredibly important that you continue to support NARAL Pro-Choice Texas right now; you will be making a huge impact on women's rights in our state for years to come. **Regardless of who is elected, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas will remain on the frontline fighting for the reproductive freedoms that are being dismantled at alarming rates at both the federal and state levels.**

Thank you for the amazing support you've shown us in the past and we look forward to standing side-by-side with you in the future as we continue to improve reproductive rights for all Texas women.

Warmest regards,



Sara S. Cleveland  
 Executive Director



*Does your employer match gifts to nonprofit organizations? Double the value of your donation to NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation in one easy step! You'll receive a tax deduction and so will your employer. Please ask your personnel office for the employee matching gift forms, sign and send them to us, and we'll take care of the rest!*  
 [Please note: NPCT Foundation's tax identification number is 74-2543342.]

## Announcing NPCT's Monthly VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE

**Do you find yourself wishing you could do more to fight for women's reproductive rights in Texas, but you're not sure where to start? Do you live in a small town and feel helpless to effect change from where you are? Maybe you just don't have time - between work, school, or taking care of your family - for anything extra?**

**Starting this month, NPCT will be launching our monthly Volunteer Challenge. On the 1st of each month, we'll post a new volunteer activity at [www.prochoicetexas.org](http://www.prochoicetexas.org). The Challenges will come in all shapes and sizes - a variety of quick, easy, timely and relevant ways to join in the struggle for reproductive freedom and make a real impact from wherever you are in Texas.**

**Questions about NPCT's Monthly Volunteer Challenge? Contact Katie at [katie@prochoicetexas.org](mailto:katie@prochoicetexas.org) or (512) 462-1661.**



*Volunteers make it happen!*  
 Left: Volunteers in Houston prepare to storm Sen. Hutchison's office.  
 Right: A student volunteer in Dallas attempts (unsuccessfully) to get a prescription for emergency contraception filled.

# Nancy Keenan Delivers *Roe v. Wade* Landmark Speech at University of Texas

NARAL Pro-Choice Texas welcomed Nancy Keenan to the University of Texas on January 17, 2008. Keenan, the president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, chose to deliver a landmark speech marking the 35th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision in Texas, the state where *Roe* originated. The following are excerpts from her speech. For the full text, visit [www.prochoiceamerica.org](http://www.prochoiceamerica.org).



Nancy Keenan spoke to a full house on January 17 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*

This is my third trip to Texas since I became president of NARAL Pro-Choice America three years ago. At every stop—whether in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Waco—I've made a point of saying that in this job, I stand on the shoulders of a Texas giant: Sarah Weddington.

I had the opportunity to tell Sarah herself that just a few weeks ago. But I have never felt it more than I do on this day, on this campus. This is where it all started. This is a place where women found the courage to take a stand.

Being pro-choice is a moral position. It is time for us to re-claim that ground. We can no longer fight this fight without talking about our faith, our values, and our morality.

So, I wanted to come here tonight to do something those of us in the pro-choice community rarely have a chance to do anymore: and that is, talk about our values, about moral complexity, religious tolerance, and common ground.

I've got to say: there are many people who believe the president of NARAL Pro-Choice America has no business talking about the moral complexity of abortion. I get that.

We were established in the days before *Roe* for one purpose: to defend a woman's right to choose. Let me reassure you: NARAL Pro-Choice America will forever defend a woman's right to safe, legal abortion. In fact, we want to go beyond defending it. We want to codify it. We don't want the fate of *Roe* to remain in the hands of the nine justices of the Supreme Court. We want Congress to protect *Roe* as the law of the land. We will keep fighting until Congress does just that.

But we don't need to shout louder and louder to do it. We don't need to disrespect those on the other side who feel just as strongly about their positions. We don't have to resort to name calling.

For 35 years, we have successfully defended *Roe v. Wade*. But I am tired of being defensive about it. I am tired

of changing the subject every time the issue of religion comes up—as if the God I hear with my ears doesn't inform my beliefs, too. We need to acknowledge what we all know to be true today: a woman's right to choose is a morally complex issue, and a lot less black and white than it's been made out to be.

When we don't acknowledge this complexity, it looks like we don't get it and don't have a moral compass of our own. The pro-choice community needs to own that reality. We can't ignore it any longer. We have allowed our opponents to mischaracterize abortion as a decision that a woman makes callously or unthinkingly. It's not. It's one of the most difficult decisions a woman will ever make.

There is no black and white here—there are many places in between. We have not done enough to make people who are “pro-choice but struggling” feel like they are part of this community. They don't see this as an issue that involves them, that is relevant to their lives. That has to change.

We need to acknowledge this moral complexity: that you don't need to think abortion is the appropriate decision to believe that government shouldn't be the one making the decision. If that is how you feel, we want to make very clear: you are welcome in this community.

In many ways, this is not just about being pro-choice.

The truth is, we are not just pro-choice. We are pro-choices.

*Continued on page 4...*

## NPCT Joins NCIWR

Last December, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas became a member organization of the National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights (NCIWR). The NCIWR was founded in 2007 to recognize the importance of including a gender perspective in the immigration debate, and is spearheaded by the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, and the National Organization for Women.

The mission of the NCIWR is to advocate for fair, comprehensive and non-discriminatory approaches to immigration reform and policies that promote equality, reproductive justice, and economic justice for immigrant women.

“We must all remember that immigrant women often care for our children, harvest our foods, staff our hospitals and otherwise occupy the range of professions that exist in this country,” says Aishia Glasford, Senior Policy Analyst at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. “Therefore, when policymakers do not advocate for immigrant families to have health care, educational opportunities and to live with dignity, what is perpetuated is racism, xenophobia, classism and misogyny, all of which plague our public policies. Consequently, the impact of our immigration policy (not to mention agricultural, big business, military, trade and foreign policies) on the lives of immigrant women is serious, long lasting and often irreversible.”

NPCT is proud to be one of many grassroots and advocacy organizations across the country who have joined this coalition to defend and promote equality for all immigrant women and their families living and working in the United States.

# Houston EC Survey Project

By Shane M. Trawick, EC Project Coordinator

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of the over-the-counter status of Plan B® emergency contraception (EC), the NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation teamed up with women across Texas to launch an investigation of access to the “best kept secret” in birth control: emergency contraception, birth control taken after sex.

Volunteers contacted nearly 800 Houston pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals in order to learn which pharmacies dispense EC to women seeking it; explore the extent of pharmacist refusal policies; determine what stipulations (identification and prescription requirements) exist on the dispensing of EC; create an online directory giving women accessible information about where EC can be acquired; encourage pharmacies that distribute EC to continue in guaranteeing women’s legal right to this important form of family planning; and obtain a snapshot of women’s access in Houston in order to support proactive policies to expand access.

Our volunteer team consisted of 40 trained women and men

across Texas and one individual from Mexico. Many of our volunteers worked from their homes after leaving their jobs for the day, while caring for children, or while studying for tests to contribute over 90 volunteer survey hours! Annie from Midland made her 20 calls even after breaking her arm. Tanya from Austin joined her UT organization, Women in Medicine, contributing 40 calls to the group’s total 175 calls!



Photo courtesy Joe Raedle / Getty Images

Some notable project findings include:

- Over 20% of pharmacies surveyed did not stock EC
- Only 28% of pharmacies that did not stock EC said they would order it if asked
- 20% of pharmacies that did not stock EC said they did not provide additional assistance for alternatives
- 17% of pharmacies that stocked EC would not allow a man to pick it up

To learn where you can buy EC in Houston or Austin, visit [www.FindEC.org](http://www.FindEC.org)

...Continued from page 3:

As a community, we believe women should have all the means and opportunities available to make the decision that is right for them.

Women are strong, and find a way to cope with these challenges. They make the best decisions they can for themselves and their families. And there is nothing immoral about

that. Indeed, it is the essence of our morality that all women are able to make the choice that is right for them.

It is the essence of our morality that women are allowed to make these decisions based on their own conscience and moral compass, since they are the ones who have to live with the consequences of that decision.

It is the essence of our morality that no government should have the power to force a woman to have a child.

There is no single issue in America today where we can do more to change the tone of our public discourse than the issue of abortion. All of us—all of you—have the power to help determine the course of that debate. Thirty-five years ago, it

was Sarah Weddington who began that dialogue. And it was young women who sat in the very seats you are sitting in today who started a revolution that changed this country.

Each of you has that same power.

The full text of this speech is available at <http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/support-us/events/roe-35th-anniversary.html>



## Volunteer Spotlight: Lena (Denton, TX)

22-year-old Lena is a pro-choice campus organizer with the Feminist Majority Leaders of America (FMLA) at the University of North Texas. She is a senior majoring in Sociology with a Women’s Studies minor.

Lena says that becoming a campus organizer was “too great of an opportunity to pass up. I wanted to keep up my feminist activism and leadership on campus, and I had been involved in a number of other pro-choice groups, so I wanted to extend that experience to NARAL.”

One of her favorite organizing memories involves the day when the group Justice For All visited the UNT campus bearing 18-foot tall signs printed with anti-choice rhetoric. Lena’s group responded with signs of their own which pointed out the misinformation in JFA’s signs and countered with facts about women’s lives. Despite the unseasonably cold March weather, FMLA found plenty of people to table across from JFA every day they

were there, 8 hours a day, wrapped up in coats and blankets. “So many people came up and talked to us,” says Lena, “and we got a ton more members in our group through it. It was pretty awesome.”

Lena describes reproductive freedom as a “basic foundation to equality.” Through her campus activism as well as her involvement in the Texas Equal Access Fund (a fund to help low-income pregnant women pay for abortions), Lena says, “I see how [reproductive injustice] affects women, up close and personal. They deserve reproductive freedom. I deserve reproductive freedom.”



Are you interested in starting a pro-choice group on your campus, or are you already working with one? To learn more about our Campus Organizer Program, visit [www.prochoicetexas.org/](http://www.prochoicetexas.org/)

**It’s easy to become a NARAL Pro-Choice Texas volunteer... contact us at [volunteer@prochoicetexas.org](mailto:volunteer@prochoicetexas.org) or (512) 462-1661 to find out how you can get involved!**