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You can support NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation (aka TARAL Education Fund) every time you shop at Randall's! Next time you go, request a Good Neighbor Program form at the customer service center and link your Remarkable Card to us. After that, each time you use your Remarkable Card, a percentage of your spending will be donated to NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation! Our Good Neighbor number is 9526.



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 or call (800) TX-SHARE.

Legislative Update by Blake Rocap, Legislative Counsel

Another legislative session has come and gone. I'm happy to share that in the area of reproductive rights, we have escaped without anti-choice elected officials adding any new restrictions to access to abortion care or additional burdensome requirements imposed upon the courageous providers in our state.

There were two anti-choice bills that loomed large as they made their way through the process during the legislative session. The first, by Sen. Dan Patrick and Rep. Frank Corte, would have required women to undergo (and view) an ultrasound prior to having an abortion. Additionally, it would have imposed more requirements on doctors and clinic staff while at the same time dictating the practice of medicine and interfering with the doctor-patient relationship. NARAL Pro-Choice Texas worked in concert with abortion providers and our other allies in the medical community to form a bipartisan coalition of senators that forced Sen. Patrick to relent on the uncompromising language of his original bill before it would be voted out of the Senate.

The second piece of anti-choice legislation was a Targeted Restriction on Abortion Providers --



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www.texasallianceforlife.org

or TRAP -- bill. This proposal would have required any physician who performed an abortion to report private information about the patient and procedure to the state. While this bill passed the House State Affairs committee, we were again able to find just enough votes in the Senate to block it.

A bad piece of legislation that got more attention and chances than it deserved was the bill to create a "Choose Life" specialty plate. The funds generated from sales of this plate would have gone to unlicensed, unregulated crisis pregnancy centers that provide no medical services but instead masquerade as clinics and provide coercive counseling against choosing to terminate a pregnancy. Prior to the beginning of the legislative

session, in what was widely regarded as political pandering, Gov. Perry held a press conference to announce his support for the bill... and why not? The anti-choice movement that makes up his support base loves this bill because it provides them with funding to continue to support anti-choice politicians.

(Continued on page 4...)

NPCT's Healthy Women, Healthy Families Coalition Continues to Gain Momentum

The groundbreaking *Healthy Women, Healthy Families* coalition project, launched by NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation in 2008 to collect health surveys and personal stories from women across the state, has been steadily gaining momentum over the past year. We're up to more than 20 coalition partners (for a complete list of participating organizations, visit www.HealthyWomenHealthyFamilies.org) and still growing. Here are a few of our most recent accomplishments:



- In January, the coalition published a report containing the initial results of the project which was distributed to media, legislators, and women's health advocates across the state.
- On February 13, NPCT Director of Outreach & Administration Katie Mahoney presented an overview of the project and its initial results in a legislative briefing at the Capitol. The briefing was attended by staff from over 30 legislative offices. Dr. Fred Campbell (a public health expert and coalition partner representing the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice) also spoke at this briefing.

In response to these and other exciting accomplishments, we decided to extend the project beyond its original projected conclusion of June 2009. Turn to page 3 for a few of the stories we have collected so far. And if you haven't taken the survey, please take a few minutes to do so!

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[Please note: Our tax ID number is 74-2543342.]*



Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I was at a policy caucus in Washington, DC discussing crisis pregnancy centers when I first received word about Dr. Tiller's assassination. I was shocked, I was angered, and I was scared. My uncle is an abortion doctor who has been practicing in the conservative communities of Waco and Midland for years. I know that he wears his vest, but my thoughts went immediately to him. It seems when there is one act of violence, it emboldens others to act. My colleagues from other NARAL affiliates felt the same emotions. Many of them have worked in clinics and a handful had known Dr. Tiller personally through the years. I can't imagine the range of emotions you, as pro-choice supporters, must have felt.

Dr. Tiller's murder put choice back into the limelight and a number of people asked which organization they should offer their help to. During our discussions, it came to my attention that a number of people are curious about what exactly it is that we do here at NARAL Pro-Choice Texas and wonder how we differ from other choice organizations in our state. I figured they were likely not the only ones wondering about this, so I thought I'd briefly summarize our place within the choice movement in Texas.

80% of abortions are performed by independent providers. This is a little-known statistic which shocks most people when they hear it. While NARAL Pro-Choice Texas certainly works to support all of the providers in Texas, we do strive to be the political voice of independent providers at the Capitol who don't have researchers, advocates, or lobbyists on staff. During the legislative session we also draft amendments, strategize, and work in concert with abortion providers, friendly legislators, and allies in the medical community to defeat bad legislation and advance the good bills.

NARAL Pro-Choice Texas is in the unique position of being the only major organization working within the political system primarily to protect women's reproductive rights which does not receive state funding. Because of that, we can afford to be the group that brokers backroom deals and applies pressure to fence-sitters without fear of reprisal (loss of funding) should we fall out of favor with certain representatives. And, while we support providers, we aren't providers ourselves, which also makes a difference from a legislator's perspective. Since we don't stand to "profit" from abortion (which is the allegation providers often have leveled at them), when we provide testimony, we are doing so solely as a non-stakeholding representative of tens of thousands of men and women across the state - men and women, like you, who live in these legislators' districts, and who vote in their elections. We have been told many times that as an organization, we carry a lot of weight because of that.

In short, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas is the political arm of the pro-choice movement in Texas. We are beholden to no one except our pro-choice supporters so we have the ability to move nimbly and go further than other groups. We're not afraid of a fight and our sole agenda is protecting your rights. Without us, Texas would lose a frontline defense against those who seek to erode Texas women's rights.

Dr. Tiller understood that sometimes it's necessary to do even more. We understand that, too.

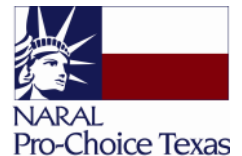
Warmest regards,

Sara S. Cleveland
Executive Director

Which NARAL Are You Giving To?

We often hear from Texans who tell us they've been donating to us for years—but when we check our records, we find that they've never given us a penny! **Here's the thing—there's more than one NARAL. We are NARAL Pro-Choice Texas and NARAL Pro-Choice Texas Foundation, your statewide**

office working for YOU from Beaumont to El Paso, from Amarillo to Brownsville. Every penny you give to us stays in Texas and funds our work in the legislature and on the ground of the Lone Star State. We have one statewide office located in Austin. **If you donate to NARAL Pro-Choice America or NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation, your money goes to them in Washington, DC and is not shared with us.** Instead, it funds work and initiatives on the national and Congressional level. NARAL Pro-Choice America does very important work and we hope that you give to them, too, if you are able. However, if you want your dollars to go to work in Texas, make sure you're donating to **NARAL Pro-Choice Texas!**



First Person: Ashley Kinkead



I always get interesting reactions when I mention to others that I intern for NARAL. Some are intrigued, others horrified and others seem genuinely impressed. A few classmates at Baylor have expressed surprise that there is even a need to fight for abortion rights. I think women my age assume the right to an abortion will always be guaranteed. They don't realize the fragility of these rights because they never had to fight for them.

Growing up in a Catholic household, I was raised to believe that women's bodies were not private property. As a young woman, I've come to realize the ownership and access that others believe they have over my body. This sense of ownership, in my opinion, is at the heart of the "pro-life" movement. It is so deeply rooted in hatred of women and their ability to make choices and decisions. While I still struggle with the inherent morality of abortion, I strongly believe in the right to control one's own body. This is a fundamental element of personhood, liberty and freedom.

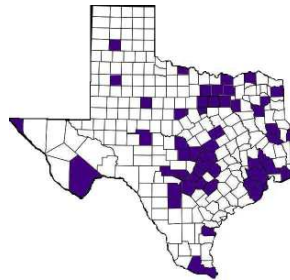
I was inspired to get involved in the political side of the pro-choice movement several years ago. I came across a rather shocking photo of George W. Bush signing the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 2003. Surrounded by a smiling group of wealthy, white, middle-aged men, W. grinned as he signed away women's ownership of their bodies. I was so disturbed by this photo and I still am to this day. I think our new administration is making great strides away from Bush-era ideology.

It's so important for young women to get involved in the reproductive rights movement. The right to control our bodies is a right that can be taken away. Recent developments in Texas and across the country demonstrate that many anti-choice legislators will fight to chip away at this right through various restrictions and requirements. It will be our generation that secures this right for our daughters and granddaughters.

Ashley worked as a Spring 2009 Healthy Women, Healthy Families Program Intern. She graduated from Baylor University in May.

Stories From the *Healthy Women, Healthy Families* Project

The coalition published an initial report in January 2009. The following stories, based on responses from 495 participants in 52 Texas counties, are excerpted from this report. For more, visit www.HealthyWomenHealthyFamilies.org.



Counties represented by survey responses

"My high school had such bad sex education that a friend and I started passing out our cell phone numbers trying to get sexually active kids to call us for contraceptive information. The calls I fielded were unbelievable (e.g. someone wanted to know if she could pregnant from swallowing semen, since 'the stomach is connected to the vagina')." -Anonymous, Travis Co.

"I don't have any insurance because I am single mom who works nights and goes to school during the day while my son is in school. If I would have [had] better access to birth control my son wouldn't be here. Trust me, I love my son more than anything in the world, but as a single mother it is really hard out here." -Age 23, Harris Co.

"As a teacher in an alternative high school, our health care services offered to low-income teens, especially regarding reproduction and birth control are woefully inadequate. In addition, especially in rural areas, privacy issues make it difficult for teens to take advantage of the services that do exist because they fear that others in the community will find out... They cannot afford to buy books or magazines to learn about nutrition, warning signs, etc., and often library books are too difficult for them to read alone. For many, their only source of information is family and friends who are often grossly misinformed." -Age 40, Fisher Co.

Austin Remembers Dr. George Tiller

In one of many vigils held across Texas, over 100 community members gathered at Butler Park in Austin on June 4th to remember and honor slain abortion provider Dr. George Tiller, murdered in his church in Wichita, Kansas on May 30. Below are some photographs from this event (all photos taken by H. Busby):



In the wake of this horrific event, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas asked our supporters to send us messages for the clinic staff across Texas who put themselves on the line every day to provide safe, respectful reproductive and abortion care for Texas women. We received over 350 heartfelt messages of appreciation from every corner of the state, which we passed along to every abortion clinic in Texas.

(Legislative Update, continued from page 1) This bill has been filed six times, and requests through the Texas Department of Transportation to create the bill have also been denied. This was the bill that came closest to passing, as it was resurrected several times through various technical complications. It was amended onto two transportation-related bills, through one of which it almost passed into law. But in a nice bit of irony, Sen. Carona (the "Choose Life" bill's author) killed that particular bill because his local option gas tax provision wasn't included in the final version!

Once again this session, we had to know the process and the rules better and work harder because the anti-choice majority controls the leadership positions and outnumbers pro-choice legislators. There is no greater example of this than the budget process. At the beginning of the session, Health & Human Services Commission had unsuccessfully requested an additional \$3 million to fund crisis pregnancy centers. (For more information on CPC's, see our report *Taxpayer Funded Crisis Pregnancy Centers in Texas: A Hidden Threat to Women's Health*.) However, later on in the conference committee on the budget — in which leaders from each chamber are supposed to reconcile the

differences between the House and Senate versions of bills — the anti-choice members were able to slip in more funding for this controversial and wasteful program.

However, in addition to stopping all of the bad bills we did see a few successes. The State's reimbursement rate for oral contraception went up, which will slightly increase funds to clinics and doctors that serve low-income women. We worked on many other pieces of legislation that would have positively impacted women's health and our communities — greater access to contraception for survivors of sexual assault, medically accurate sex education, and multiple bills that tried in one way or another to prevent unplanned pregnancies and reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy. While none of these bills passed, many received hearings and there was a more productive conversation on these issues than there had been last session.

The only way we are going to have more successful legislative sessions is to take back the political power in the legislature! So please continue to stay involved in your communities and help us elect more pro-choice candidates so we can improve reproductive health across all of Texas.

Welcome Summer 2009 Interns!

NARAL Pro-Choice Texas is delighted to host six interns this summer: two of our spring interns who are extending their internships, and four new interns who joined us in June.

Representing a broad spectrum of interests—including poverty policy, global women's rights, pro-choice advocacy, genocide awareness, public health, and law—our interns have been hard at work on numerous projects this summer.



NPCT interns and volunteers with Executive Director Sara Cleveland (center) at an intern appreciation event in May.

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