

Propositions, Politics, and Providers

Advocating for Reproductive Healthcare in the 2006 Elections



PRCH 2007

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Take Two Votes and Call Me in the Morning: Advocating for Reproductive Healthcare in the 2006 Elections

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Objectives:

- Describe the current legislative trends affecting reproductive healthcare access.
- Review the potential impact of this legislation on access to reproductive healthcare services in the states.
- Discuss how physicians and public health professionals can affect current reproductive healthcare policies.

2006 State Legislative Trends

- In 2006, state legislators introduced more than 1,100 bills related to reproductive health and rights; 29 states enacted 62 laws.
- Pro-choice trends: expanding access to emergency contraception (EC), contraceptive coverage
- Anti-choice trends: abortion bans, ultrasound laws, parental involvement laws

Source: Guttmacher Institute

Pro-choice trends

- Contraceptive equity: NJ, MT, MI, WI
- Pharmacy access of EC: VT allows pharmacists to dispense EC without a prescription (mid-2006 FDA ruling means this need only apply to minors), bringing total states to nine.

Anti-choice trends

- In 2006, MI and OK passed laws requiring providers to offer an ultrasound image before an abortion.
- That trend has continued throughout 2007: GA, ID, MS passed laws; several other states (and Congress) have considered laws.
- Total number of states with ultrasound law today: 10 (AI, AK, GA, ID, IN, MI, MS, OK, UT, WI)

Anti-choice trends

- In 2006, two states enacted tougher restrictions for minors seeking abortion care; OK and UT now require parental consent (both states previously had parental notification laws in place).
- By the end of 2006, 21 states required parental consent, 11 required parental notification, and two require both.
- Today, 22 states require consent (ID).

Source: Guttmacher Institute

Anti-choice trends

- California and Oregon and parental involvement policies/ ballot initiatives



Anti-choice trends

2006 Abortion Bans/ “Trigger” Bans:

- 14 states considered 24 abortion bans in direct violation of *Roe v. Wade* (only SD and LA passed).

AL, GA, IN, KY, LA, MS, MO, OH, OK, RI, SC, SD, TN, WV

Source: NARAL Pro-Choice America

Where do we stand in 2007?

- 13 states with pre-*Roe* bans still on the books
- Two unenforceable abortion bans on the books (UT and LA, 1991)
- Four “trigger” bans on the books: SD (2005), LA (2006), MS (2007), ND (2007)

Source: Guttmacher Institute

- Where do physicians' voices fit in?
- PRCH's advocacy programs



- Backlash against Bush administration's prioritization of politics over evidence-based science and medicine.
 - FDA and Plan B
 - Unproven abstinence-only programs
- Lawmakers looking for the expertise of physicians

Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health

- PRCH is the only national physician-led non-profit organization bringing a unified medical voice to Congress, the media, and the public in matters of family planning, abortion, adolescent pregnancy, and reproductive healthcare.

Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health

- The mission of PRCH is to ensure that all people have the knowledge, access to quality services, and freedom of choice to make their own reproductive health decisions.

- PRCH works in state legislatures and Congress
- In 2006, PRCH worked with physicians in California, Oregon, and South Dakota on ballot initiatives.

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