



Advocacy Update

Sent February 23, 2011

Urge Your Senators to Oppose HR 1! Protect Essential Health Funding!

Last Saturday, February 19, the House of Representatives passed the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (H.R. 1), which includes draconian funding slashes for essential health care and prevention programs for this fiscal year.

The current Continuing Resolution will expire on March 4, 2011. Congress will return from its current recess on March 1st, at which time the Senate will work on its appropriations bill. A government shutdown is possible if agreement is not reached between the House and Senate versions, or if Congress does not extend the March 4th deadline, or if the president vetoes the bill he receives from Congress.

According to the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, SIECUS, H.R. 1 “will eliminate all funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative. It will eliminate all funding for Title X family planning programs in the United States and cut over \$1 billion from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).” The House also passed an amendment that completely bans any funding for Planned Parenthood clinics. “And the cuts don’t stop there.”

Your senators are now home in their districts for a one week recess. Call on your sisterhood members to tell their senators that they oppose the cuts in funding to essential health programs, family planning, and sexuality education.

Ask your women to stop by their senators’ district offices to set up an appointment with the senators or their aides or leave messages for them. Find the senators’ nearest district offices by going to their websites. If there are no district offices nearby, email messages can be sent through the websites.

Inform the senators that you consider funding for health and prevention programs essential and that you look to them to vote against any budget legislation that reduces funding for Planned Parenthood, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Title X Family Planning Programs, or the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative. Please participate. Your message is essential.

FYI: Glenn Beck's Rant Against Reform Judaism

Read James Besser's thoughtful Political Insider blog in The NY Jewish Week on yesterday's Glenn Beck's rant about what he characterized as the political nature of Reform Judaism. The article cites Mark Pelavin, associate director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, as saying that Beck's comments “were of a piece with his criticism last year of churches for their social justice ministries. It takes a special kind of audacity to proclaim oneself the arbiter of what is religious belief and what is not, what is inspired by faith and what is not.”

This is a complicated story. For full background, follow all the links in the Besser article.

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