



Advocacy Update

Sent April 6, 2011

"Stand Up for Women's Health" Advocacy

This is a crucial week for women's reproductive health in the Senate budget deliberations. If the draconian anti-Choice bills passed by the House of Representatives are passed by the Senate and signed by President Obama, the impact on women's reproductive health and rights would be devastating. One bill, which is of particular concern this week, would drastically reduce access to affordable abortion services, contraception, pelvic exams, cancer screenings, and other essential women's health care. If passed, it would deny Title X funding to Planned Parenthood and other organizations that provide abortions, although Title X funds are not used for abortions.

The effort to prevent passage of this legislation has attracted a broad range of advocates including Catholics for Choice. Their press release this week states, "In an unprecedented effort, fifty-seven Catholic state legislators have signed a letter urging their counterparts in Congress to keep Title X funding for family planning services in the federal budget. Citing their responsibility as Catholics to protect the rights of the most vulnerable Americans, the legislators say the proposed cuts would unfairly target the poor women who receive contraception and basic preventative health care from Title X funded clinics."

In her March 25th report on the "Saving Reproductive Choice" conference call (sponsored by the Religious Action Center, Women of Reform Judaism, and National Council of Jewish Women), WRJ President Lynn Lazar wrote, "If possible, join the RAC and thousands of pro-choice advocates from around the country on Thursday, April 7, in Washington, D.C., to urge your representatives to oppose legislative attacks on women. Register today to 'Stand up for Women's Health.'" WRJ thanks those of you who will participate in "Stand Up For Women's Health."

If you cannot be in D.C. tomorrow, participate by:

- Emailing your elected officials and urging them to oppose the legislative proposals that would endanger women's health and lives
- Calling your elected officials to make your voice heard. The Capitol Switchboard can be reached at 202.224.3121.

Protect a Woman's Right to Choose

Kimcha D'Pischa: IRAC's Massive Food Drive for the Spring Holidays

Anat Hoffman, director of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), tells us that kimcha d'pischa is an Aramaic phrase used for acts of loving kindness. It is also the name of a massive food drive called Kimcha D'Pischa, sponsored by IRAC, at this time each year in honor of Pesach, Easter, and the celebration of the Prophet Shu'ayb.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home

With extensive Israeli and diaspora support, seven tons of food is provided to thousands of disadvantaged people across the country. [Read Anat Hoffman's](#), 4/04/11, lively and interesting description of Kimcha D'Pischa and join in support for IRAC's important holiday project.

Pesach Resources for Jews in The Military

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden are launching a national initiative encouraging Americans to engage and support our nation's military families.

Their efforts remind us that with Pesach coming soon, it is time once again, for WRJ sisterhoods to send holiday packages to help Jews serving in the military in the United States and around the world observe the holiday.