



# Advocacy Update

Sent November 28, 2012

## **Medicaid Expansion**

In 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. One of the key ways this law will provide healthcare coverage to those with low-incomes is the "Medicaid expansion" plan that will give states significant federal money to cover more people. Even so, some states have already said they will not expand their program, and the Supreme Court's ruling on the ACA this summer limited the ways the federal government can encourage states to participate. The expansions, or lack thereof, could have profound implications for low-income individuals across the country.

So far, 7 states are planning on rejecting the Medicaid expansion. Those states that ultimately choose not to participate are doing a disservice to the health and well being of their residents. It is important for us to continue to pressure our respective states to join the Medicaid expansion, reflecting our responsibility to care for the least fortunate among us and provide healthcare for those who are suffering.

## **Judicial Nominations**

In the Book of Judges, we read about a sequence of individuals who were more than legal advisors – they were the leaders of the community. They emerged when the Israelites had become so corrupted that they needed to be rescued, and were selected by God for just this task. While our judges today are not the divine figures we read about in the Torah, they are crucial to the smooth functioning of our society. Unfortunately, we live in a time where judicial emergencies—situations in which a particular region does not have enough judges to hear all of its cases—are numerous, and where Senate obstructionism slowing the pace of confirmations is high.

Earlier this month, President Obama nominated a series of new judges, bringing the total number of nominees currently awaiting Senate floor votes to nineteen. Many are speculating that a judicial nominations package (confirming non-controversial nominees who have bipartisan support) could be passed in the lame duck session. The most recent batch of nominees proposed by the President would increase the number of women, minorities, and openly gay judges serving on the federal bench.

It is time for the Senate to swiftly consider the nominees and resolve the judicial emergency. Read more about this issue here, and read a letter sent by Reform Movement leaders (including WRJ's Rabbi Marla Feldman!) to Senate leaders about confirming pending nominees here.

## **WRJ In the News**

Click below to read great articles that highlight the work of the Reform Movement and WRJ!

- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stuart-milk/jewish-and-gay-one-choice-in-this-election\\_b\\_2047354.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stuart-milk/jewish-and-gay-one-choice-in-this-election_b_2047354.html)

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