



As we come to the end of 2011, we look back on a year chock-full of exciting campaigns and activities that have raised NAPAWF's profile around the country and made us a more visible and effective organization that ever before! And we couldn't have done it without the amazing activists who have supported us! As we wrap up the year and wish you all a happy holidays and new year, we ask that you continue to support our work and [make a donation](#) so we can make 2012 an even better year for NAPAWF!

NAPAWF ~ TOP NEWS

A Successful Wish for the Holidays!

When NAPAWF and the National Domestic Workers Alliance dreamed up the [A Wish for the Holidays](#) campaign in an effort to bring the voices of American youth into the immigration debate, we had no idea just how profound an experience this would be for all involved. A Wish for the Holidays resulted in thousands of letters pouring into NAPAWF offices from children and youth around the country, all voicing one wish: an end to detentions and deportations so that all families can stay together. We heard from children who have been separated from their parents, others who live in fear that this could happen to them, and still others who know that policies that tear us apart are simply wrong. On December 8th and 9th, delegations of children and youth then hand-delivered the letters to 54 members of Congress, and to a representative of the Obama Administration who promised that she would deliver them to the President. In addition to delivering letters, we held two press conferences where youth read their own letters and those of other children. These press events resulted in coverage by media outlets around the country, and as far away as Peru and the Philippines. Click here to view a [heartwarming video of the letter delivery](#) delegation. We also archived all of the letters we received in an [online letter gallery](#). Thank you to everyone who supported this effort and sent in letters and we all wish that this Holiday Wish comes true!

Miriam Yeung Takes on Sex, Race, and Abortion

NAPAWF Executive Director, Miriam Yeung, stood up for the civil and reproductive rights of women of color on December 6, when the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution held a hearing on H.R. 3541, the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA). In arguments that are atrociously offensive, Republicans on the subcommittee posit that they must protect the “civil rights” of the unborn fetuses of African American and API women by further restricting women's access to abortion services. In essence, PRENDA would penalize doctors who provide abortion services to Black and API women by allowing their relatives or partners to file lawsuits if a suspected sex- or race-selective abortions is performed. Not only do race selective abortions not occur, but is this a non-solution to sex selective abortions, and it would worsens disparities in access to comprehensive reproductive health care services and the maternal and child health outcomes for women of color. In her testimony, Miriam stated: “This bill discriminates against women of color... NAPAWF is extremely concerned that the anti-choice movement is exploiting the issue of son preference in some Asian cultures while doing nothing to support efforts that truly address the issue. Gender inequity cannot be solved by banning abortion... proponents of this bill ignore what Asian American and Pacific Islander women know is best for our own community and undermine our agency by trying to curb our rights.” [Watch Miriam’s full testimony!](#)

NAPAWF ~ ON THE HILL

Shocker! Using Contraceptives Reduces Unplanned Pregnancy!

Amazing! It turns out that when women and teens have access to and increase their use of contraceptives, the number of unplanned pregnancies, abortions, and miscarriages fall! Newly released government data has shown that the US teen birth and abortion rates have declined for the third year straight due to overall improvements in teen use of contraceptives as well as an increase in use of highly effective methods or dual methods of contraception. In addition, a new report evaluating states that expanded Medicaid eligibility for family planning services found that access to these services increased women’s use of contraceptives, increased use of more effective methods, and improved continuity of use, which are all factors in reducing high rates of unintended pregnancy for low-income women. Not only were there declines in unplanned pregnancy, births, abortions, and miscarriages, but better planning and spacing of pregnancies which improve the health outcomes for women and their newborns, as well as the economic and social well-being of families. Fortunately, the 22 states that have these expanded family planning programs reach 2.7 million women and men not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. Meanwhile,

although affordable birth control is an important first step for API women to have access to family planning options, we also know that a disproportionate number of API women rely on withdrawal as their means of birth control as compared to other women. So we need to continue to ensure that these gains reach our community!

So how does the US House of Representatives respond to this encouraging news? By introducing an appropriations bill that would waste \$5 million in taxpayer dollars on an earmark for the discontinued and utterly ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage programs while cutting \$2 million from the Title X family planning program, banning needle-exchange programs and prohibiting DC from using local dollars to help low-income women access abortion services. Makes sense to me too!

Here Comes the Grinch..

Women and their families continue to struggle in this hard economy. While men have regained 30 percent of the jobs they lost since December 2007, women have only regained 17 percent. In sheer numbers, the job gap between men and women stands at 1.5 million. Yet, the failure of the “budget supercommittee” last month means that the federal government will suffer almost \$1 trillion in budget cuts over the next decade, beginning in Fiscal Year 2013. And there are plenty of politics to still wreak havoc for unemployed and low-incomes families. While both the House and Senate passed bills to extend TANF, the House failed to pass the Payroll Tax Break extension after the Senate passed their version of the bill and left town for the holidays. This package included the tax break for middle- and low-income families as well as an extension of unemployment benefits that are set to expire at the end of the year and language to prevent a pay cut for doctors who treat Medicare patients. Finally, conservatives in the House also are trying to add a requirement that individuals must have a valid SSN in order to qualify for the Child Tax Credit, which would have a devastating impact on US children, especially of immigrant parents. In fact, if this language becomes law, more than 2 million families and up to 4 million U.S. citizen children will be harmed. I hope Santa leaves coal for these House Scrooges!

Immigration Quick Facts

(1) In the last 10 years the number of immigrant woman entrepreneurs has almost doubled! In 2010, there were at least 980,000 immigrant women business owners, which is 9% of foreign-born women versus 6.5% of native-born women. However, the average revenue of these businesses is less than 25% of that of businesses owned by their White counterparts. Still, the estimated 8 million businesses owned by women contribute \$3 trillion to the nation’s economy and employ more than 23 million people. You go ladies!

(2) When New American Heritage dictionary recently attempted to include the derogatory term “anchor baby” in its latest edition without acknowledging its perjorative origins, there were howls of protest from outraged immigrant rights activists. Fortunately, I’m happy to report that within a week, the definition was amended to note its offensive nature. Although, the better news would’ve been that the term not been included at all.

(3) The Applied Research Center recently released its "[Shattered Families](#)" report, which found that children separated from their families by deportation face enormous obstacles in rejoining their parents, even though child welfare agencies are required by federal law to reunify children with parents who are able to care for them. Researchers found that families separated by deportation typically remain apart for long periods and child protection services and the courts often terminate parental rights. Some children have even been put up for adoption. The study estimated that there are currently 5,000 children already in foster care and without changes to the government's deportation policy, 15,000 more minors will suffer the same fate over the next five years.

NAPAWF ~ IN THE ADMINISTRATION

HHS Secretary Overrules FDA on Plan B, Faces Backlash

So remember how better access to contraceptives means all things good? Well, unfortunately Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius jumped off the progress wagon when she overruled the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision to make Plan B One-Step emergency contraception available over the counter for all women. This is an unprecedented move by the Secretary to overrule years of research and a thorough and months-long review of the evidence by the FDA and culminates the fourth time FDA or HHS has requested data on this product. So while the Obama Administration pledged a standard of scientific accountability in political decision-making, it's pretty clear that this was a political move to avoid battling anti-choice conservatives during an election year. Meanwhile, women's rights and the medical community blasted the decision as pure politics and Democratic Senators sent a letter to Sebelius demanding the scientific basis behind her decision since the medical community has long since scientifically proven that emergency contraception is safe and effective, regardless of age. Finally, as a result, US District Court Judge Edward Korman agreed to allow the Center of Reproductive Rights to reopen its 2005 lawsuit against the FDA for imposing unnecessary age restrictions on emergency contraceptives and add Sebelius as a defendant in the case. Here's hoping that CRR wins!

Alliance Pushes to Restrict Toxins in Cosmetics

The [National Healthy Nail and Beauty Salon Alliance](#), of which NAPAWF is a co-convenor along with the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative and Women's Voices for the Earth, recently blasted the Cosmetic Ingredient Review's decision to allow formaldehyde to be used in certain cosmetics. Although formaldehyde is a potent irritant and carcinogen and has been found to be dangerous for use in hair smoothing products and cosmetics, the CIR determined it is safe for use in nail hardeners. This runs counter to data provided by the Alliance of user complaints with nail hardeners resulting in adverse events such as skin irritation, severe finger pain, strong unpleasant odor, coughing, and other symptoms. Meanwhile, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration continues enforcement actions against manufacturers and distributors that sell hair smoothing treatments, such as Brazilian Blowout, that contain dangerously high levels of formaldehyde. Thus far in 2011, OSHA tested and found formaldehyde in several products that

were labeled "formaldehyde free" or did not list formaldehyde on the label and cited the manufacturers and distributors of these products for incorrectly labeling the products. You can find out more on their [new website on hair salons](#)! Go get 'em, OSHA!

NAPAWF ~ IN THE STATES

Arpaio Gets Shut Down!

After three years of investigation (that anyone could've told you would result in findings of out-of-control racial profiling, harassment, and abuse of immigrant communities) the Department of Justice found that the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), led by one egomaniac, Sheriff Arpaio, engaged in egregious discriminatory policing practices that targeted Latinos via racial profiling, retaliation against critics, and discriminatory punishment of jailed Spanish-speakers. Duh. In addition, the investigation uncovered the disturbing news that all of this discriminatory policing practices included a chronic failure to adequately investigate allegations of sexual assaults and other crimes, especially in Latino communities. [Read the full findings](#). But as a result, the Department of Homeland Security decided to get all self-righteous on Arpaio and announced that it was terminating MCSO's 287(g) agreement and restricting MCSO's access to the Secure Communities program. Which is great... especially since DHS and the Department of Defense just announced that they were increasing their partnership to "secure" the Southwest Border through DOD aerial surveillance and reconnaissance support. Additional border security is obviously needed since the number of border apprehensions was down 53% since 2008 (ie. less people are attempting to enter the country via border crossing) and the size of Border Patrol has doubled since 2004. Yep. Sounds like a good use of taxpayer dollars to me too.

NAPAWF ~ IN THE COURTS

Supreme Court Announces Date for ACA Hearing

In breaking news, the Supreme Court has set aside two hours of arguments on March 27th to allow the government and opponents of the Affordable Care Act to debate the individual mandate provision of the law. This schedule sets the arguments just days after the law's two-year anniversary. A decision in the case is expected by the end of June. NAPAWF has signed on to an amicus brief in support of the ACA filed by the National Women's Law Center.

We couldn't have done all of this without your support! Please consider making a donation to help NAPAWF continue to be the only national organization that focuses on advocacy for API women and girls! [Make your tax-deductible donation now!](#)



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