



NAPAWF ~ ON THE HILL

Health Care Confusion

The recent House repeal vote and other fighting over health reform in Congress and in the courts has helped create an environment in which nearly half of Americans say they are confused about the status of the law. To make sure we're all on the same page, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is still the law of the land and most states continue with implementation, notwithstanding the confusing VA ruling (more later). In fact, March 23rd marks the One-Year Anniversary of the signing of the law and everyone wants to hear your stories about how the law has benefitted you! Many health care and women's advocacy groups will be staging celebrations around the country to highlight benefits of the law. These efforts will highlight the benefits of the Affordable Care Act since so many of the key provisions of health reform remain critically important for women and girls, including tax credits to small businesses, allowing young adults to remain on their parent's insurance plans through age 26, subsidies to assist low and moderate income individuals pay for insurance, and prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions. NAPAWF has created a [new webpage](#) to help you find information on the ACA and will be sharing information on ways that you can get involved and learn more about this historic law and its benefits for you! .

War on Women's Bodies Continues

Conservative members of Congress push ahead in their efforts to use the Affordable Care Act as a vehicle to restrict abortion coverage. The Smith Bill (H.R. 3) makes permanent unfair restrictions on federal funding for abortion for low-income women and would use tax policy to expand these restrictions to any insurance plan to bar access to abortion services, even to protect a women's health. The Pitts Bill (H.R. 358) allows hospitals that

receive federal funds to refuse to provide abortions, even when an abortion is necessary to save a woman's life. Another piece of anti-choice legislation, the Pence Bill (H.R. 217), which would prevent health centers that offer abortion services from receiving future Title X family planning grants, has been tabled pending the vote on the House continuous resolution, which if enacted, would eliminate the need for H.R. 217.

Unfortunately, the anti-choice leaders in the House have allowed these misleading, unfair and immoral anti-choice bills to pass through committee hearings and are continue through the legislative process. The House Judiciary Committee approved the Smith bill NAPAWF has been on the frontlines with other advocates to educate lawmakers on the harmful effects on women's health and urging them to [oppose these bills](#). We expect a full House vote on the Smith Bill soon and legislators will need to hear from you!

Budget Woes: No Money, Mo' Money!

Conservatives and wealthy elites are using the federal budget deficit to push a radical social agenda that undermines the social bargaining power of working Americans and defunds the public benefit programs that protect the health and safety of middle and low-income Americans. As most liberals have noted, these same deficit-alarmists universally support tax breaks for businesses and the wealthy, demonstrating a hypocritical disregard for the long-term financial health of our country and quality of life for 90% of Americans. On February 19, the House passed the FY2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1), to fund the federal government through the end of the fiscal year, by cutting \$100 billion from the federal budget. This draconian budget slashes operation funding for most social benefit programs, putting the health and quality of care for millions of women and their children at risk. It defunds implementation of ACA, eliminates the Title X family planning program, and cuts the budgets of Head Start, child care assistance, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, Pell grants to low-income students for college, prenatal, maternal and child health care, community health centers, job training, housing, food safety, environmental protection, and more. Not surprisingly, the House's proposal doesn't include any revenue increases to achieve a balanced solution. NAPAWF has been particularly vocal concerning the attacks on Title X. Title X grants support family planning programs in 4,500 clinics serving 5 million individuals across the country. The funds are used to provide a range of reproductive health and family planning services including contraceptive counseling and supplies, STD testing, breast and cervical cancer

screenings, vasectomies, hypertension and blood pressure measurement, prenatal care and sex education. This program would be cut to punish Planned Parenthood and other health clinics for using 3% of their private funds to perform abortions. By cutting \$81 billion from non-security programs and \$19 billion from security-related programs, the House leadership has effectively drawn a line in the sand for President Obama and Democratic Senators. Although the House recently passed a less controversial continuing resolution to continue funding the federal government through March 18th, legislators are gearing up for a protracted fight and federal agencies are preparing for a government shut-down similar to one that happened in 1995. Stay tuned for how this develops!

Miriam Yeung Takes on DC!

On February 10th, NPAWF Executive Director Miriam Yeung represented the voices of API women and girls on two key issues. In the morning, she gave testimony at a Congressional Briefing to educate lawmakers on the harmful consequences that the Smith Bill would have on the reproductive decision-making of API and other low-income women and girls. Later that same day, Miriam spoke at another congressional briefing, “Emerging Issues in Ending Violence Against Immigrant Women”. This briefing strove to draw connections between enforcement-only immigration policies and the increasing vulnerability to violence for immigrant women. Miriam’s stirring testimony at both events helped elevate the concerns of API women while drawing important connections between the need to protect women’s access to comprehensive reproductive care and the healthy and safety of communities of color.

NPAWF ~ IN THE ADMINISTRATION

NPAWF Meets with White House Council on Women and Girls

NPAWF Policy and Programs Director, Christine Harley, gave testimony

on behalf of the National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance (the Alliance) at an interagency meeting with the White House Council of Women and Girls on February 10, 2011. Officials from Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Justice were all in attendance. After listening to the testimony, agency officials provided updates on their efforts to improve oversight of the nail salon industry, including announcements that OSHA is currently investigating nearly 100 complaints of formaldehyde exposure from the popular hair straightening solution, Brazilian Blowout, which was discovered to have extremely high concentrations of formaldehyde. Tina Tchen, Director of White House Office of Public Engagement and Chief of Staff for the First Lady, also pledged her support on the issue. Building on the success from this meeting, the Alliance plans to host a DC Week of Action for nail salon advocacy, May 16-20, 2011.

NAPAWF ~ IN THE STATES

Tide Turning on Enforcement-Only?

While some state lawmakers continue to introduce restrictive immigration bills, the tide appears to be turning as more states reject measures they worry are too costly or politically risky. Although, lawmakers in Michigan, Georgia, Indiana and Arizona continued attempts to push enforcement laws, including efforts to redefine the citizenship of American-born children of immigrant mothers, folks in Arkansas, New Mexico and Nebraska voted down (or anticipated the failure of) measures that would restrict access to preventative medical care, tuition equity and driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants. These states illustrate a growing trend of that lawmakers who are tired of the restrictionist status quo and are starting to search for real solutions. Using this momentum, progressive lawmakers are using similar language as the Utah Compact, to recognize immigration as a federal issue, stress the importance of family unity, and celebrate the role immigrants play in our economy. In another sign that the tide has turned, city, business, religious and education leaders are also unifying in opposition to Arizona-copycat legislation and in support of more welcoming policies. Through our leadership within the National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights, NAPAWF continues to monitor the movement of anti-immigrant legislation and advocate for the rejection of any efforts to

undermine the reproductive rights of immigrant women or restrict citizenship of American-born children of immigrant mothers. Check out our [press statements](#) to elevate immigrant women's voices!

New York Rejects Racist Billboard

Local activists in New York City have firmly rejected the new anti-Choice public propaganda campaign attempting to equate Black infants to endangered animals. After an offensive billboard went public in the SoHo community, activists led by Women of Color Policy Network launched a counter-campaign targeting the company that owns the billboard and were successful in pushing the company to remove the offending message. Similar billboards still ruin the skies in Los Angeles and Wisconsin.

NAPAWF ~ IN THE COURTS

Goodwin Liu, Hearing Part II

On March 2nd, Goodwin Liu participated in his second hearing before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. During the hearing, Mr. Liu spoke eloquently about his legal knowledge while Democratic Senators ardently defended his record and lambasted the ongoing filibuster of President Obama's judicial nominations. The lack of movement on Obama's judicial nominees has created a 'judicial emergency' in the federal courts due to the high number of vacant seats. Here's hoping that increased pressure will result in confirmation hearing for Goodwin Liu and other Obama nominees! As you know, NAPAWF [supports confirmation](#) of Goodwin Liu!

Affordable Care Act Legal Antics

Judge Gladys Kessler of Federal District Court for the District of Columbia became the third judge to reject a constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act. Two other federal district judges, both appointed by Republican presidents, have struck down the law's keystone provision, which requires most Americans to obtain health insurance starting in 2014. Meanwhile, the overzealous judge in Florida who had issued a confusing and over-reaching ruling in an attempt to invalidate the entire act was asked to

clarify his ruling by the Justice Department. He has since issued clarification and agreed to stay his decision. Although the issue will almost certainly be determined by the Supreme Court, each lower court ruling contributes to the balance of legal opinion that the justices will consider. Oral arguments in the first appellate reviews are scheduled for May and June. NAPAWF has signed onto an amicus brief being filed in support of the Affordable Care Act.