



Sorry for the delay folks! Trying to keep track of all the legislative action on anti-choice, anti-immigrant, and anti-health care has kept us busy! So here's the "better late than never" January scoop...

NAPAWF ~ ON THE HILL

I'll Tell You What to Repeal...

Vitriol aside, the House voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, after a week-long delay out of respect for the Arizona shooting that wounded Rep. Gifford and killed Federal Judge John Roll. The largely symbolic House vote was meant to put its members on record in support or opposition to the law. Democrats in the Senate, squashed their version of the anti-health care legislation on February 2nd. So that's the end of that.. or not. Now, anti-ACA legislators have begun to implement their true strategy: hold hearings, extract testimony from administration officials, and pursue budget cuts, to stall implementation of the law. They will also attempt to repeal and replace portions of the law, including repeal of a burdensome reporting requirement for businesses, the individual mandate, and other unpopular parts of the law. . Still, those who support the law are confident in their ability to defend it, and on a silver lining, see this as a second-chance to educate Americans about all of the benefits that the Affordable Care Act has already brought to low-income and previously uninsured individuals. This may be a winning strategy. Although Americans remain divided over their support for the law, most oppose defunding its implementation and large majorities oppose cutting Medicare and Medicaid. Still, one of the more infuriating aspects of the anti-Health reform effort is the use of anti-choice legislation to rile up their base...

The Battle Rages Over Women's Bodies

Since the 112th session of Congress began, the new House leadership has unleashed an unprecedented attack on women's reproductive health. The most drastic bill, the Smith Bill, goes much further than current restrictions on public coverage of abortion services. If passed, the bill would undermine women's access to reproductive health care by:

- Banning coverage of abortion in the new health-care system
- Imposing tax penalties on individuals with private insurance plans that include abortion coverage
- Re-imposing the ban on Washington, D.C. to use its own local funds for abortion for low-income women
- Allowing hospitals to deny life-saving abortions to pregnant women whose lives are in danger.

Three other bills introduced in the House attempt to ban abortion coverage on the new exchange system, declare it "discriminatory" to deny Title X funds to "family planning" providers that refuse to offer their patients comprehensive information about abortion services, and use the 14th Amendment to establish "fetal personhood" for the unborn. Interestingly, the same person (Sen. Paul, R-KY) wants to expand the 14th Amendment for the fertilized embryos of American citizens, yet restrict it for the babies of immigrant women. The cognitive dissonance is amazing... NAPAWF has [come out strongly](#) against these attacks on women's reproductive rights and will continue to track this harmful and offensive legislation. Also, stay tuned for upcoming action alerts around the egregious Smith Bill. Hearings are planned for next week and we need to hear from you!

Anti-Choice & Anti-Immigrant, Oh My!

Emboldened anti-immigrant activists and legislators are gung-ho in their efforts to introduce harmful and counter-productive legislation to illegally target the wombs of immigrant women. On the 1st day of the new Congress, legislators from 14 states announced their intent to coordinate the introduction of this anti-immigrant/ anti-civil rights/ anti-Constitution legislation. The following day, Representative King (R-IA) introduced the Birthright Citizenship Act of 2011 in the House. Most recently, Senators Paul (R-KY) and Vitter (R-LA) introduced a congressional resolution in the Senate that they believe would achieve the purpose of stripping the citizenship of American-born children of immigrant mothers by amending the Constitution legislatively to close what they call a "loophole." Aren't you

glad that these “constitutionalists” are protecting the sanctity of this sacred, founding document? Yes, I am too. On that front, NAPAWF has been actively working with the National Coalition for Immigrant Women’s Rights to provide [strong counter-messages](#) to these unconstitutional arguments and mean-spirited attacks on pregnant immigrant women and their button-cute babies. Check out the new NCIWR website that includes a [media center](#) and additional information about this issue. In addition, stay tuned for upcoming coalition calls and events that NCIWR is hosting!

NCAPA, Meet CAPAC

On January 25th, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) hosted a breakfast meeting with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). The Executive Council of NCAPA had arranged the meeting so that both organizations could share the work that each has done to advance API priorities within Congress and to begin discussions to continue to align legislative priorities for the incoming Congressional Session. As co-chair of the NCAPA Health Committee, NAPAWF discussed the need to safeguard implementation of the Affordable Care Act and defend against efforts to repeal the law.

NAPAWF ~ IN THE ADMINISTRATION

White House Commissioners Discuss Harassment

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders worked with Commissioner Amardeep Singh to host a discussion on the unacceptable harassment and bullying that Asian American, South Asian, and Muslim students experience on a daily basis in our public school systems. Using the South Philly High School case as an example, advocates highlighted the harmful impact of harassment and bullying on our communities for top officials from the Department of Education and the Department of Justice. NAPAWF joined with other national and community-based organizations to highlight these concerns and urge the

Administration to take firm steps to ensure that local school administrators work with API communities to provide safe learning environments for our students.

NAPAWF ~ IN THE STATES

State Tug-of-War on Immigration

Unfortunately, several state legislators have continued down the misguided path to hurt the economic recovery and health of their states by introducing a series of anti-immigrant legislation meant to scapegoat immigrant families, rather than address the real woes of the states. Over the past month, legislators in 12 states have introduced Arizona SB1070 copycat bills. Fortunately, it turns out that this legislation is [un-American](#). State business groups, local law enforcement, religious organizations and community members have joined together to raise their voices in opposition to these harmful bills. Amidst budget crises and cutbacks, many local communities worry that the cost to implement and defend such laws, and the possible loss of tourism, consumer, and business dollars, is too high a price to pay. Some state lawmakers are even introducing countermeasures to Arizona-style bills, calling on local law enforcement to “focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of the federal code” and to adopt state resolutions similar to the Utah Compact, which expresses pro-immigrant policy language. Some states, like Kentucky, Mississippi, and Wyoming, have already rejected or are expected to reject the state copycat bills. Still, two states (Arizona and Oklahoma) have introduced their own versions of state legislation that target immigrant mothers and local activists and advocates are gearing up for the local battles that will result. NCIWR has developed [tools](#) for local leaders to use in their defense efforts.

Anti-Choice Activists Take on States

Anti-choice legislators in North Dakota, Indiana, Mississippi, Connecticut, Montana, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and New Jersey have introduced bills that seek to establish “fetal personhood”, require women seeking abortions to view an ultrasound, establish parental notification requirements for minor women, teach abstinence only curriculums in schools, require

counseling, limit access to emergency contraception, and prohibit the use of public funding for abortion services. Furthermore, the battle over race and sex in abortion services has re-emerged as inflammatory “Black babies as endangered species” billboards have appeared in California and Wisconsin and anti-choice legislators have introduced race and sex selection abortion bans in Massachusetts, Arizona, and West Virginia. These bans seek to create a wedge between pro-choice advocates and communities of color by claiming that the pro-choice movement has disproportionately targeted minority women. NAPA WF [strongly opposes](#) these attacks. Our analysis is while son preference may be an issue within some of our communities, abortion bans do nothing to address the underlying issues. Instead, these are part of an anti-choice strategy to undermine the ability of Black and API women to access abortions from safe doctors. Finally, as a reminder of the critical importance of the Roe vs. Wade decision, news broke on January 22nd about a “back alley” abortion clinic that was allowed to operate in Pennsylvania for decades. Philadelphia has finally closed the clinic and indicted Dr. Gosnell on eight counts of murder in the deaths of women and infants. While anti-abortion extremists are attempting to use this story to demonize abortion providers, the real horror to this situation is that the mainly low-income women of color who sought help from Dr. Gosnell did so because they had no other options and couldn’t afford safer reproductive care.

NAPAWF ~ IN THE COURTS

Conservative Judicial Activism

Last but not least, on January 31st U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson issued his decision on the Florida challenge to the Affordable Care Act and ruled that the individual mandate was unconstitutional. Then, in an act of conservative judicial over-reach, the judge decided that the individual mandate could not be separated from the rest of the ACA and so declared the entire ACA unconstitutional. To further the confusion, Judge Vinson denied the request to formally prohibit further implementation of the law but said that the declaration of unconstitutionality should bar federal officials from doing anything to implement the law. As we all ponder that head-scratcher, the decision will be appealed for an expedited review and it is assumed that a request to stay the decision will be made to the District Court. In addition, states are expected to continue with their

implementation efforts since state governments are not bound by the decision. This is a relief, especially since many of them (including all of those that participated in the Florida lawsuit) are receiving federal monies to implement the law. NAPAWF continues to track this case and advocate for implementation of the Affordable Care Act.