



NAPAWF ~ ON THE HILL

Safe Cosmetics Act Re-Introduced!

In May, NAPAWF, as part of the [National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance](#), helped hold a National Healthy Salon Week of Action, that included bringing nail salon workers to DC to tell policy-makers to take action to protect their health. This month, Representatives Schakowsky, Markey, and Baldwin, along with 8 other legislators, re-introduced the [Safe Cosmetics Act](#) in the 112th Congress. This time, the original co-sponsors also included Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA) and Barbara Lee (D-CA) prominent members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus that Alliance members visited last month. The Alliance fully supports this important legislation! The Safe Cosmetics Act requires safety assessment of all cosmetic ingredients, phases out cosmetic ingredients linked to cancer, birth defects, and reproductive and developmental harm, closes labeling loopholes, improves protections for workers, and finally gives the FDA the recall authority necessary to protect the public. It is important for NAPAWF members to voice their support of the Safe Cosmetics Act! [Take action today](#) to support nail salon workers!

Immigration is the Squeaky Wheel

It must be nearing election time or something... all of a sudden, everyone's got immigration on the brain! Conservative think tanks are pumping out regurgitated and discredited arguments that immigrants compete with native-born workers in the labor market. (Never mind that most economic analysts conclude that immigrants complement native-born workers and

bring a significant entrepreneurial spirit to the American economy, fueling jobs and generating revenue for local economies.) The posturing doesn't stop there- House Judiciary Committee Chairman, Lamar Smith (R-TX) held a hearing earlier this month to discuss expanding the E-Verify program to make it mandatory for all employers. On the Senate side, Richard Durbin (D-IL) presided over the first Senate hearing to be held on the DREAM Act. DREAM students (and NAPAWF interns) packed the hearing and overflow room, putting everyone on notice that DREAMers aren't going away! In addition, Senator Menendez (D-NJ) continues to push for solutions for our broken immigration system with the re-introduction of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) Act of 2011.

NAPAWF continues to be a leader on federal immigration policy. This month, members of the [National Council of Asian Pacific Americans \(NCAPA\)](#), including NAPAWF, met with Senate leaders to urge them to oppose expansion of the E-verify program, and support the Administration in using judicial discretion to stay removal cases for spouses of same-sex couples for immigration purposes and DREAM students.

Budget Negotiations Sputter

Budget negotiations entered into a tense phase this month as Vice President Joe Biden and his team of men spent the past several weeks in a negotiation quagmire trying to reach a compromise on the federal budget. As you recall, the US must raise its debt-ceiling by August 2nd in order to prevent any delays in government payments and the devaluing of US credit rating, which could wreak havoc on already tottering international markets. Biden has been leading efforts to negotiate \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next ten years while raising the debt-ceiling. It seems negotiations have gotten stuck on Republican demands for outrageously devastating cuts in the social safety net, while Democrats have pushed for fresh revenue sources. However, President Obama recently entered into the debate, with a challenge to Republicans to eliminate tax breaks for oil companies and the super-wealthy. However, he tied these demands to possible spending cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. As a result, advocates are sounding the alarm over this new threat of cuts to Medicaid coming from Democrats (see below). Meanwhile, Republicans in the House and Senate are hiding another wolf under the sheep's wool of "fiscal austerity" by proposing a "balanced budget" constitutional amendment. The proposal would cap spending at 18 percent of the Gross Domestic Product unless two-thirds of Congress votes to exceed that amount and it would also require a three-fifths super-majority to increase revenues. Currently, spending is 23% of GDP which means that this proposal would

immediately cause funding cuts to safety net programs and, over time, would decimate virtually all public benefits programs. Republicans are attempting to bind passage of this balanced budget proposal to support for increasing the debt-ceiling. Word of caution: in 1997, a balanced budget amendment passed the House and came within one vote of passing the Senate! Let's hope this new proposal doesn't go anywhere!

Medicaid On the Brink

As President Obama appears to be offering up Medicaid as a sacrificial lamb in exchange for taxes for the wealthy, advocates are increasingly concerned. As you know, Medicaid is a critical program that pays for health care for people with disabilities and low incomes. Services include preventive care, family planning services, prenatal and maternity care, cervical cancer screenings, and long-term care. Advocates are warning that Democratic proposals to curtail federal spending on Medicaid will merely serve to shift costs onto states and further threaten this vital safety net. As Senator Rockefeller (D-WV) is warning, proposals to turn Medicaid into a block grant program or impose federal spending caps would decimate the program. In fact, 33 states have already reduced their 2012 Medicaid budgets and further cost shifts will have an even bigger, negative impact on the program. These cuts are particularly devastating to rural and low-income women and the impacts of service cuts are already being felt. In Indiana and Minnesota, politically motivated cuts to Title X program funds for Planned Parenthood family planning services have resulted in service cuts to Medicaid recipients and some clinics, which may be the only service provider in some rural communities, have been forced to close their doors. This month NPAWF joined other advocates in lobby visits to inform legislators about the negative impact that cuts to Medicaid would have on API women. Also, on **Tuesday, July 12th**, we ask our NPAWF fam to join Senator Rockefeller and other champions to [take action to defend Medicaid](#) and Medicare. We need a plan for deficit reduction that reflects our values, that protects the most vulnerable, and that doesn't shift the burden onto middle class families and states! [Please Act Now!](#)

NPAWF ~ IN THE STATES

States Fall to the Dark Side

After months of listening to business leaders, law enforcement officers, civic leaders, economists, academics and activists all explain just how very, very bad “papers please” copycat laws are for state economies, and after the example set by 16 states to defeat anti-immigrant legislation, a sudden slew of states have decided to tie their fate to a sinking ship. Restrictive state immigration laws passed in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina (signed by South Asian Governor Nikki Haley) this month. Boo! NAPAWF continues to take the lead in centering a gender justice analysis within the immigrant rights movement. On June 15th, New American Media and The Opportunity Agenda hosted a [telephonic news briefing](#) to highlight efforts to amend the 14th Amendment’s birthright citizenship clause as a violation of immigrant women’s human rights. Miriam Yeung was one of the featured speakers. In addition, NAPAWF is working closely with the National Domestic Workers Alliance and NDLOM to lead a Women’s Delegation as part of the Georgia Summer of Human Rights to raise up women’s voices and join in solidarity with local activists. We hope that NAPAWF sisters will join us on August 2nd and 3rd in demonstrating that women in this country stand in solidarity with immigrant women in Georgia to say NO! to “papers please” copycat laws!

State Exchanges and Abortions

So after that depressing news about bad immigration policies in the states, we’d like to ask all of you to knock on some wood with us as we do a status check and confirm that of the ten states that have passed or enacted insurance exchange bills, none have included an abortion ban! Yep! California, Connecticut, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia have all approved health insurance exchanges that do not include restrictions on abortion access. Woot! Another twelve states (Alabama, DC, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) have exchange establishment bills pending and none of those have been flagged for restrictive language! Woot, woot! Unfortunately, the good news doesn’t quite continue. Eight states have enacted abortion coverage bans or restrictions this year outside of the exchanges, including Florida, Kansas, Indiana, Idaho, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Utah. However, most of these states are fighting implementation by participating in lawsuits challenging the

Affordable Care Act so they have not moved on legislation to establish a state insurance exchange.

The Next Layer of Awful

This month, anti-abortion groups broadened the reach of their offensive and racist billboard campaigns to new populations. Spanish language billboards appeared in Los Angeles targeting Latino women and claiming that the most dangerous place for a Latino baby is in the womb. In the Bay Area, more billboards attacking Black women appeared using the Black and Beautiful slogan. While those billboards have come down, others appeared in Atlanta, GA linking abortion to slavery. These billboards use inflammatory language to create wedges between groups. In response to these billboards, NAPAWF chapters in Chicago and LA have organized/are organizing workshops and teleconferences on the harm of the billboard campaign and the proposed bills which come along with them. On the sex selection side of things, reviews of Mara Hvistendahl's book *Unnatural Selection* appeared in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. Both reviewers claimed that sex imbalance was caused by abortion. NAPAWF sent letter to the editors to both publications pointing out the role that sexism and son preference plays in sex imbalance.

More Attacks on Reproductive Rights

It pains me to say it, but there have been a jaw-dropping, record number of anti-abortion bills taken up by the states this year. As of June 28th, a whopping 470 measures were on the books in 2011, which is more than double the 175 proposed in 2010. According to the Guttmacher Institute, the measures include burdensome physician and hospital requirements, arbitrary gestational limits, partial-birth abortions bans, limitations on public funding, restrictions on private insurance, provider refusals, state-mandated counseling, longer waiting periods, and parental notification requirements. NAPAWF staff are creating state specific tools to assist chapters in pushing back against this harmful onslaught of our reproductive rights!

NAPAWF ~ IN THE COURTS

Liu Withdraws from Consideration

Last month, the Senate continued to filibuster Goodwin Liu's confirmation vote even though it had been 400 days since his initial nomination and the seat he had been nominated to fill is considered a "judicial emergency". After this new outrage from Senate Republicans, Liu withdrew his name from consideration.

Read My Lips: No to "Papers Please"

The US Judicial system continues to come out on the right side of the battle over immigrant rights. A federal judge temporarily blocked portions of Georgia's "papers please" Arizona copycat law that would allow racial profiling. This mirrors similar decisions to block key provisions of the similarly anti-immigrant Indiana and Utah laws. Lawsuits are also pending in Alabama and South Carolina.