

THE VOICE FOR CHOICE

NARAL PRO-CHOICE COLORADO

Fall 2006 • 1905 Sherman St., Suite 800 • Denver, Colorado 80203 • 303.394.1973 • www.ProChoiceColorado.org

JOIN THE FIGHT!

Be a part of Choice Vote '06!

Choice Vote '06 is NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado's grassroots campaign to mobilize pro-choice supporters in Colorado. *And we need you!*

We ask all our Choice Vote '06 members to volunteer during the election cycle. Please sign up for the following:

1. VOLUNTEER FOR 2-3 ACTIVITIES: Walk your dog while distributing campaign literature; provide food

for phone banks; help us out in NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado's office; write letters to your neighbors urging them to vote – anything you can commit to doing makes a big difference.

2. VOLUNTEER ON ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7: Look at your calendar now. Can you take the day off to help NPCC get out the pro-choice vote? Or maybe you can help out the Saturday or Sunday before the big day. How can you help during the final push?

3. DONATE TO NARAL PRO-CHOICE COLORADO:

Every dollar raised will go directly to helping mobilize pro-choice supporters by offsetting costs for mailing campaign literature, calling targeted voters, and all the little things campaigns need to win. By donating to NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, you'll also receive our *Pro-Choice Voter Guide* that outlines candidates' positions on reproductive rights.

"A woman's right to choose--really, to control her own destiny--is under siege as never before. Our right to an abortion has been eroded steadily over the last decade of conservative political control, both in legislatures and in the courts, where President Bush and anti-choice governors have appointed hard-line conservative judges. That's why this election is so important: We must make sure that supporters of choice continue to control the Colorado Legislature so that Colorado women can continue to make their own decisions about their health and future. We must vote. This is a critical election for choice."

- Ambassador Gail Schoettler

- CALL TO ACTION -
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
BECOME A MEMBER OF

CHOICE VOTE '06

PLEASE CONTACT SARA LEMMON AT
SLEMMON@PROCHOICECOLORADO.ORG OR
303-394-1973 EXT. 15.

THE STATE OF CHOICE



DEAR FRIENDS,

The issue of choice is under intense attack at the federal and state levels. We're facing enormous threats of nongovernmental interference in our private lives, especially regarding our rights to make extremely personal decisions about our reproductive health care.

Nationally, the Bush administration's anti-choice agenda is crystal clear: to turn back the clock and outlaw abortion, and to criminalize women and doctors by reversing *Roe vs. Wade*.

- The U.S. Supreme Court may act as soon as next spring with regard to *Roe vs. Wade*. The Supreme Court has agreed to

hear another challenge to the Bush administration's federal abortion ban – a strong sign that the Court, with its two new justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, is willing to consider reversing decades of precedent protecting a woman's right to choose. These challenges are directly aimed at reversing *Roe vs. Wade*, which is already being eroded at the federal and state levels.

- Fourteen states have considered, or are considering, abortion bans that would outlaw abortion in all or most circumstances. South Dakota enacted a ban to take effect on July 1, 2006, although we helped to collect enough signatures to place this ban on the November ballot. Louisiana's ban will take effect if *Roe vs. Wade* is overturned. Twelve other states are considering similar abortion bans.

In Colorado, we're facing an important state-wide election on November 7, which will determine the future of women's reproductive rights and health

care. In 2004, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado helped to elect a pro-choice state legislature that has succeeded in defeating every anti-choice bill presented. Now it's more vital than ever that we build upon the successes of 2004 to protect our privacy and our reproductive rights.

- Colorado still has a 1967 criminal abortion statute on its books that could be revived if *Roe vs. Wade* is overturned. If that happens, Colorado legal experts argue that the Colorado General Assembly will need to act to protect women's reproductive rights.

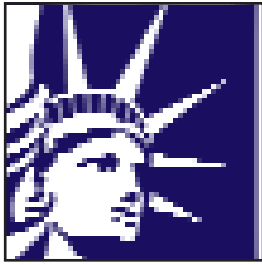
- The director of Colorado's Right to Life wrote to anti-choice supporters on June 9 that they "need lawmakers with the courage to declare the practice of abortion as the evil it is and to re-criminalize this ghastly, abominable act." Anti-choice legislators have already stated that they intend to introduce a South Dakota-type abortion ban at the Colorado state legislature next January.

According to a recent poll, 60 percent of Coloradans are pro-choice. However, groups in Colorado – such as Colorado Right to Life, Focus on the Family, certain elements in the Catholic Church, anti-choice legislators and others – believe they know what is "best" for each of us with regard to our personal reproductive health.

It's imperative that we work hard over the next few months to expand our resources for protecting our basic freedoms and rights to privacy. Help us to support the ability of Coloradans to create their own healthy lives, healthy children, and healthy families. Please join us in our fight to protect women's reproductive rights in Colorado!

For choice,

Kathryn Wittneben
Executive Director



**NARAL
PRO-CHOICE
COLORADO**

1905 Sherman Street, Suite 800
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 394-1973
FAX (303) 388-1692
<http://www.ProChoiceColorado.org>
choice@ProChoiceColorado.org

The mission of NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado is to develop and sustain a constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive health choices, including preventing unintended pregnancies, bearing healthy children and choosing legal abortion.

**NARAL PRO-CHOICE
COLORADO STAFF &
CONSULTANTS**

- Kathleen Carlson**
Fundraising & Communications Associate
- Laurie Hawkins**
Research Analyst / Program Consultant
- Sara Lemmon**
Field Director
- Toni Panetta**
Deputy Director
- Beka Wilson**
Fundraising & Events Associate
- Kathryn Wittneben**
Executive Director

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NEWSLETTER

- Kathleen Carlson**
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NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado reported major success during the legislative session this year, with the most notable being passage of legislation that would have allowed direct pharmacy access to

Emergency Contraception and defeat of a measure that would have subjected doctors who provide abortions – even in the first trimester – to being arrested and charged with first-degree murder, a crime punishable by the death penalty.

One of the key lessons we learned through our lobbying efforts this year is that coalition building is vital to our success in implementing public policy strategies and carrying out our advocacy work. Therefore, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado (NPCC) organized and facilitated the Colorado Healthcare Coalition for Emergency Contraception, which included the Colorado Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado Pharmacists Society and the Colorado Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Colorado and many other important organizations.

For the first time in years, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado had a daily presence at the capitol, primarily lobbying House Bill 1212, which called for pharmacists to be

able – although not required – to write prescriptions directly for Emergency Contraception. At the Capitol, we served as a true resource for lawmakers and their staff by providing them with research, witnesses, fact sheets, and other information.

By the end of the session, the media understood our message. In fact, *Rocky Mountain News* and *The Denver Post* repeatedly editorialized in favor of our bill.

NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado would like to thank former Political Director Jessie Danielson for her six years of hard work and dedication to choice. We wish her the best of luck with her new job at America Votes!

Emergency contraception has been available by prescription for decades; the FDA's decision to allow emergency contraception to be sold without a prescription is long overdue. EC is a critical tool to help women make personal, private decisions about their own health care and to prevent unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion.
- NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado Executive Director Kathryn Wittneben

GRASSROOTS ACTION

Although both houses of the state passed HB 1212, Governor Bill Owens vetoed this Emergency Contraception direct pharmacy access bill in April. His refusal to support a common-ground effort to reduce abortions gave NPCC the opportunity to educate the public about EC access and expose anti-

choice extremists for their opposition to birth control and family planning through the media.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR GRASSROOTS EFFORTS:

- Activists sent thousands of emails and made hundreds of phone calls to both Colorado House and Senate members in support of HB 1212.
- We delivered more than 5,000 signatures and 1,200 emails to Governor Owens at a press conference urging him to sign HB 1212.
- Our Constituent Lobby Network, which now covers every state district, emailed, called, and wrote their legislators to help defeat HB 1128, which would have given doctors the death penalty for performing abortions.

PRO-CHOICE ACTIVISTS HIT THE STREETS TO TELL THE FDA: NO MORE DELAYS!!

NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado collected and delivered more than 10,000 signatures statewide urging the FDA to end its three-year delay of approving over-the-counter access to Emergency Contraception (EC).

On August 24, 2006, women across Colorado, and the country, benefited from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's decision to let a type of emergency contraception, Plan B®, be sold over-the-counter. Women 18 years and older are eligible to purchase this safe and effective form of birth control over-the-counter, however, women 18 years and younger must still obtain a prescription. Please see www.ProChoiceColorado.org for more information.

MEET THE NARAL PRO-CHOICE COLORADO TEAM

KATHRYN WITNEBEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR >>

Ms. Wittneben, who became executive director in November 2005, brings more than 15 years of experience in leading non-profit organizations that focus on progressive political and social changes. She has extensive experience in carrying out public-policy research and in developing, implementing, and advocating for sound, effective public policies that deal with tough, sometimes seemingly intractable, social issues. Most recently, Ms. Wittneben served as president and CEO of The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund (U.S.), which supported youth-led non-profit organizations working with marginalized youth across the United States.



SARA LEMMON FIELD DIRECTOR >>

Ms. Lemmon was promoted to field director after serving as the organization's political organizer. Before joining NPCC, she was the volunteer coordinator for the Colorado Environmental Coalition. At CEC, Sara helped lead the field effort for two successful ballot initiatives, FasTracks and Amendment 37.



BEKA WILSON FUNDRAISING & EVENTS ASSOCIATE >>

Ms. Wilson helped build NPCC's 24th annual Choice Celebration and Auction into the largest and most profitable to date. She has two years of experience working in coalitions and developing events. As an organizer with EnviroCitizen and the Colorado Environmental Coalition, Ms. Wilson has worked on issues ranging from clean energy and student voting to water conservation and environmental justice.



KATHLEEN CARLSON FUNDRAISING & COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE >>

Ms. Carlson has extensive writing experience, contributing to such newspapers as *The Denver Post*, the *Aspen Daily News*, and *The Des Moines Register*. She entered into the non-profit world as the U.S. director for Mercy and Sharing, a children's organization in Haiti, where she managed a national and international public relations campaign.



TONI PANETTA DEPUTY DIRECTOR >>

Ms. Panetta brings extensive experience in corporate, non-profit and academic communications; project management; and social advocacy to NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, as well as formal education in human rights and international women's issues. Prior to coming on board as the organization's deputy director, Ms. Panetta worked with NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado to research and distribute the organization's *Emergency Contraception* resource guide.



LAURIE HAWKINS RESEARCH ANALYST & PROGRAM CONSULTANT >>

Ms. Hawkins has experience in designing, running and performing statistical analyses of psychological research studies and experiments. She has taught senior-level research and design labs, including all aspects of the research process, at the University of Colorado's psychology department.



PREVENTION FIRST COLORADO

This year, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado Foundation (NPCCF) kicked off Prevention First Colorado, a major multi-year initiative. The three-year program builds upon our educational efforts regarding greater access to birth control and Emergency Contraception by working to prevent unintended pregnancy, thereby increasing the health and economic self-sufficiency of Colorado women and girls. The Prevention First Colorado (PFC) program will include four main components: coalition-building, research and analysis, policy recommendations and implementation, and public education.

COALITION BUILDING: NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado Foundation has been meeting with visionary leaders of Colorado's women's and children's health communities to build a Prevention First Colorado Coalition that will provide advice and expertise as the project evolves. The coalition also will help us to analyze results gathered during the research process, develop policy recommendations, carry out a public-education campaign, and disseminate the results to the wide variety of constituencies they represent. Because unplanned pregnancies affect so many facets of our community, it's important to have as many diverse members of the community involved as possible to help ascertain the causes, consequences and solutions to preventing unintended pregnancy.

MISSION: The Prevention First Colorado coalition's mission is to support the reproductive health of Colorado's women and girls, including helping them reduce unintended pregnancy. We be-

- CALL TO ACTION -
DO YOU KNOW AN EXPERT OR ORGANIZATION PERFECT FOR THE PREVENTION FIRST COLORADO COALITION?
CONTACT RESEARCH ANALYST LAURIE HAWKINS AT LHAWKINS@PROCHOICECOLORADO.ORG

lieve every child in Colorado should be a wanted child and that every woman and man in the state should have the appropriate education and knowledge to make effective family-planning choices to create healthy women, healthy children, and healthy families.

We just hosted the first Prevention First Colorado Coalition meeting and initial interest in this project is running high. Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR), Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, Girls Inc., and the Republican Majority for Choice are just a few of the committed organizations.

RESEARCH: Our research program begins this summer with statewide distribution of a survey about contraceptive attitudes and practices through health clinics. We'll also survey Colorado women's and teens' attitudes and behaviors regarding the use of contraception through a) clinic surveys of women; b) telephone surveys of women; and c) teen questionnaires and interviews. In addition to giving us information about contraceptive use, the surveys will help clinics throughout the state improve their services by providing valuable feedback about patients' responses.

POLICY REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION: Following the completion of the research and analysis phase of the PFC project, the coalition will help develop concrete policy recommendations to present to political and community leaders.

PUBLIC-EDUCATION CAMPAIGN: We plan to devise an education program that addresses specific issues identified through our comprehensive research program. Ideally, PFC will identify issues unique to different groups in Colorado and design education campaigns targeted at these various groups.

We're excited about this new program and think it will make a world of difference to the women and girls of this state by providing them with the information and resources they need to make good decisions about their bodies and their reproductive futures!

- FACT -

Half of all pregnancies in the United States (and Colorado) are unplanned. Roughly half of these unplanned pregnancies happen to less than 10 percent of women who don't use any contraception. This is one of the highest rates of unplanned pregnancy in any industrialized nation!

Dear NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado supporters,

At the end of the school year, our debate class at East High School was assigned a public service project. We knew right away that we wanted to do something that affected us directly, so we chose sex education.

To educate people our age, the class gathered at various malls across the city and passed out information and condoms. The only real challenge we encountered with the preparation for this project was finding the right information for our flyer. This is where NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado's *Thinking About Sex? What Teens Should Know about Reproductive Health Care* handbook helped us.

We encountered little protest, and it showed me that you can create change and awareness if you commit yourself to something. However, it would not have been nearly as successful without NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado's help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nick Zeller, East High School Class of 2008

RoeDay2006

ON JANUARY 19, HUNDREDS OF PRO-CHOICE SUPPORTERS BRAVED THE SNOW AND RALLIED FOR THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VS. WADE. THE THEME OF THE 2006 RALLY WAS "FREEDOM, JUSTICE, ACCESS, ROE" - FOUR THINGS NO WOMAN SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITHOUT.



Roe Day 2007
save the date
 JANUARY TWENTY SECOND

24th Annual Choice Celebration and Auction a HUGE SUCCESS!

With the theme "Hollywood Then & Now: A Spotlight on Choice" and the attendance of leading federal and state legislators and local celebrities like *Survivor's* Ami Cusack, a great night was had by all during the 2006 Choice Celebration and Auction. The event itself grew by more than 150 attendees, while a record number of items for the silent and live auctions were donated. Close to 170 celebrities were solicited for auction items, including a new electric Gibson guitar donated by the female rock group BETTY, a lunch date and invitation to Fox's *King of the Hill* taping with comedienne Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney, and a priceless cashmere scarf worn by Christina Ricci in her upcoming feature film *Penelope*, due out this year.

Thanks to all of the participants, donors, and volunteers who helped create such a successful event. Next year is the Auction's 25th Silver Anniversary! Reserve the date today to attend this not-to-be-missed event!



Thanks to Susan English for all our wonderful auction photos!

25th Annual Choice Celebration and Auction
save the date
MAY FIFTH 07

HELP SUPPORT FREEDOM AND CHOICE IN 06!

IN A VICTORY FOR PRO-CHOICE SUPPORTERS IN COLORADO LAST MONTH, BACKERS OF A STATEWIDE ABORTION BAN FAILED TO GATHER THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNATURES TO SECURE A SPOT ON NOVEMBER'S BALLOT.

THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR OUR STATE, BUT THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER YET! WE NEED YOUR HELP THIS FALL TO MOBILIZE PRO-CHOICE SUPPORTERS!
EVERY DOLLAR YOU DONATE ADDS UP TO VICTORY IN NOVEMBER!

PLEASE DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR 2006 CONTRIBUTION BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! RETURN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR NARAL PRO-CHOICE COLORADO CONTRIBUTION TODAY.



GET INVOLVED THIS FALL! Help us expand our volunteer network by signing up to join Choice Vote '06. See p. 1 for more information.

NARAL
PRO-CHOICE
COLORADO
1905 Sherman Street
Suite 800
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 394-1973
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- INSIDE -
The State of Choice
Choice Vote '06
Meet the Team
Prevention First Colorado
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