



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Media Advisory

150 North Texans Head to the Capitol to Lobby for Women's Health Initiatives, Tuesday

Nearly 50 from Forth Worth and 100 from Dallas to advocate, "Prevention is Key"

DALLAS – One hundred and fifty Planned Parenthood of North Texas (PPNT) supporters will collectively travel to Austin toting pink "prevention" bags in chartered buses to meet nearly 600 other supporters from around the state, Tuesday, March 1 to lobby their legislative representatives advocating "Prevention is Key" in support of increased access to family planning services and emergency contraception (EC).

The theme, "Prevention is Key," will emphasize that family planning education and medical services, especially for low-income women, and greater access to EC prevents unintended pregnancies, abortions and the spread of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. North Texans are outraged and motivated because in 2004 two pharmacists in the area refused to fill prescriptions for preventive medications, EC and birth control pills.

Supporters will meet with North Texas State Representatives and Senators and their staff to discuss specific legislation including their opposition to House Bill (HB) 16 and their support of HB 676 and Senate Bill (SB) 389. (See descriptions below)

THIS EVENT IS OPEN PRESS

When: Tuesday, March 1, 2005, 6:30 - 7:00am

Where: 7424 Greenville Avenue, Dallas

Who: PPNT supporters and activists

Why: Supporters will meet and depart for Austin on chartered buses at 7 am.

HB 16 would allow pharmacists to refuse to fill physicians' prescriptions for EC and possibly other birth control supplies based on their personal beliefs. The bill does not require a pharmacist refer a woman to another pharmacy or disclose to his employer that he will not dispense certain medications.

HB 676 and SB 389 would require all hospital emergency rooms to provide information to sexual assault victims about EC and a prescription for those who want it. Many Texas hospitals do not routinely inform women about EC or make it available to them.



***EC, formerly the morning after pill, is commonly confused with the abortion pill or RU486. EC prevents a pregnancy from occurring if taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex and will not harm an existing pregnancy. RU486 induces an abortion and is only administered in a doctor's presence. RU486 is never dispensed by a pharmacist.**

For 70 years, PPNT has provided compassionate medical care in North Texas. In 2004, PPNT clinics served more than 80,000 patients in its 28 clinics. PPNT also provides health education outreach to 12,000 individuals a year.

*“Celebrating 70 years of providing compassionate health care
in North Texas communities.”
(1935-2005)*