

Women Have Options/Ohio

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Member of National Network of
Abortion Funds

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We're on the Web!
www.womenhaveoptions.org



The Mission of Women Have Options/Ohio is to support the right of every woman to make her own reproductive decisions.

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Justice requires that all women be able to make personal decisions about childbearing.

Please join us in our commitment to women's lives and futures. Your tax-deductible contribution enables women in Ohio to get help when they need it. Any amount is appreciated! Please send your contribution to:

Women Have Options, PO Box 5, Granville, OH 43023

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

- I would like more information about WHO/O.
- I would like to help with special events.
- I would like to help with the newsletter.
- Add my friend's name and address to your mailing list: _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Contributions to WHO/O can be made through **United Way** by choosing the Donor Option and naming Women Have Options to receive your dollars.



Spring 2008

WHO/O Launches Second Annual Spring Fundraising Campaign

WHO/O's second Annual Spring Campaign will begin in May, 2008 with a goal of raising \$17,000. As WHO/O's single largest source of funds, the Spring Campaign is critical to continued support of reproductive health services for low income women in Ohio. The WHO/O Board of Directors is hoping not only to reach or exceed the \$17,000 goal, but also to broaden the base of support. As WHO/O's geographic service area has grown beyond Licking County and Southeastern Ohio*, the WHO/O Board believes it is important to reach out to new donors.

In 2007 WHO/O launched its first ever annual fundraising campaign, raising over \$14,000. Nearly 70 donors made gifts ranging in size from \$10 to \$4,000. In addition to funds raised at the fall event and grant funds received from foundations, WHO/O's fundraising totaled over \$35,000 in 2007.

* See map below.

Look at What We Accomplished in 2007!

In 2007, WHO/O, working through 14 clinics, funded services for 303 women in over 40 of Ohio's 88 counties (shaded).

Thanks to a grant from the Gund Foundation in Cleveland WHO/O served a total of 363 women in 43 counties.

Since its inception, WHO/O has assisted more than 1,400 women throughout Ohio.



WHO/O supporters believe every woman...

...has the right to make her own decision about an unwanted pregnancy.

...has the ability to make a responsible choice based on her own circumstances and values; and

...has the right to receive safe, legal professional health care.

Inside this issue:

Sarah Weddington 2
at Denison

Responses from 2
Those We've Helped

Legislative Initia- 3
tives

Fact and Response 3
on HB 314

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Students for Choice Hosts Sarah Weddington at Denison University

By Sarah Leavell

Students for Choice, a long-time Denison student organization, brought Sarah Weddington, the winning attorney in the 1972 Roe v. Wade case, to speak on campus in February.

The organization was reinvigorated last fall and is now under the energetic leadership of Cara Downs '10 from Salem, Oregon. There are about 150 members on the email listserve, an increase of forty over last year.

Students for Choice has a solid group of 30 members who are actively involved in a range of activities. Three to four members regularly escort women at Capital Care in Columbus, staying by their sides as they run the gauntlet of angry anti-choice protesters who taunt and harass them.

Members are looking forward to the fall, when they plan to bring Christine Pelosi, daughter of Nancy Pelosi, to campus prior to the national election.



Cara Downs and Sarah Weddington

We Hear From Women We've Helped

"I am so grateful for all the help my daughter received. My daughter was diagnosed bipolar and was taken off all her meds when she became pregnant. It was so hard on her not to be on meds and to be pregnant."

She was afraid to tell me because she was ashamed, so she ended up being further along than I thought. With the help we received, my daughter was able to get the abortion, go back on her meds, and go back to school.

She will be placed on birth control so we can prevent this happening again."

Mother of a Teenager

"This funding has truly changed my life, a life that was threatened, a life that was filled with grief, stress and emotional upheaval."

This funding has given me a second chance at life. I couldn't be more grateful; the relief I feel is unexplainable.

I would love to donate money to help other women get their lives back. I am now in a position where my financial status can and will change. I am just so thankful because this wouldn't be possible if I hadn't had the help you provided me."

Young Mother

A big vote of thanks . . .

To Capital Care Clinic staff for their Roe v. Wade dinner event that raised money for Women Have Options. We really appreciate it!

What's Ohio's Legislature Up To on Women's Reproductive Health?

By Phyllis Carlson-Riehm, Executive Director
ACTION OHIO Coalition for Battered Women

Fetal death certificates, ultrasound images and posters in abortion clinics are all on the minds of Ohio's state legislators these days.

The Grieving Parents Act would require "the product of a fetal death" to be interred at a cemetery at the request of the mother. In addition, she could be granted a fetal death certificate and burial permit for a fetal death prior to 20 weeks of gestation. (Sponsor: Senator Kevin Coughlin)

On March 21, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed into law House Bill 314, which would require that a woman who is to have an abortion be given the opportunity to view any available obstetric ultrasound image. It is current practice that abortion clinics give this opportunity to their patients. (Sponsor: Representative Shannon Jones)

Currently two companion bills (HB 280 and SB

231) being debated would require that posters be placed in abortion clinics stating that "no one can force another person to have an abortion."

The bill is being sponsored by anti-choice legislators and only anti-choice proponents have testified in support of the bill. Nonetheless, the bill's prime sponsor suggests that it is a domestic violence bill aimed at stopping batterers from forcing victims to have abortions against their will. No DV organizations or advocates are supporting the bill. (Sponsors: Representative Michelle Schneider & Senator Gary Cates)

There is no research indicating that battered victims have more abortions. There is evidence that battered victims suffer more violence during pregnancy, delay obtaining prenatal care, are apt to experience a variety of complications, and deliver more low birth weight babies.

TRUST WOMEN

Fact and Response Regarding Ohio's new Ultrasound/Fetus Bill

By Andrea Martinez, Capital Care Women's Center

Fact:

On Friday March 21, 2008, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland signed HB 314 into law, requiring medical clinics to offer pregnant women a chance to see ultrasound images of their fetuses before having an abortion. There was no opposition to the bill from any of the pro-choice lobbyists because abortion providers in Ohio already comply with a women's request for ultrasound images. This Ohio law does not require women to view ultrasound images and does not fine physicians who do not comply; however this is not the case in other states.

Response:

As an employee at an abortion provider in Ohio, it is obvious to me that this bill is yet another ploy made by anti-abortionists to reverse a women's choice to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. Ultrasound pictures are a part of a patient's medical chart and are available to a patient at anytime for up to 6 years. At the clinic where I work, we are aware that a women's decision to have an abortion is a difficult and sensitive one. We do not show the patients the ultra-

sound unless they want to see it, and we do not try to talk them out of their decision. To do so would be insensitive, unethical, and insulting to their intelligence. As a clinic, we want to be supportive of any women's choice regarding pregnancy, to keep or to terminate.

Another proposed law in Ohio would require clinics to post a sign stating: "No one can force you to have an abortion." Yes, I agree that no one should be able to force anyone to terminate their pregnancy; however, there should not be a law to post a sign. Requiring a posted sign undermines a women's intelligence and again is insulting. Women in Ohio, as well as in many other states, already endure a mandatory 24-hour delay in order to terminate. Yes, I agree that patients should speak with a doctor before having a surgery. I believe that should be true for any surgery for any person. There should not, however, be a mandatory waiting period. That implies that one is not capable of making a decision. We must be more careful of the laws, we support or do not support, for I fear if we continue on this path of passing these types of laws, we jeopardize and further erode our precious Roe v. Wade.