



# PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF NARAL PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA & NARAL PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA FOUNDATION

## BREAKING NEWS:

U.S. Supreme Court to hear first abortion case in five years. See how Rehnquist's likely retirement could effect this impending case and the future of *Roe*. —Page 3

**DON'T NUKE THE SENATE!**



### Senate Compromise: Filibuster survives, anti-choice judges sneak by

*Third article in series*

The night before Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN) was to force through a rule change to eliminate the 200 year tradition of the filibuster, a bipartisan group of fourteen senators averted the infamous "nuclear option" and protected the use of the filibuster against extremist judicial nominees who won't respect our rights.

The fourteen senators stated clearly that the judicial confirmation process should reflect the spirit of bipartisanship and moderation. And they pointed out the most important step toward achieving that goal: presidential consultation. George W. Bush can do more than anyone else to make the confirmation process a source of consensus rather than conflict by returning to the simple practice followed by every other modern-era president: bipartisan consultation. Meaningful consultation will lead to selecting more judges who respect our personal freedoms and understand how the law affects ordinary

*(Continued on page 2)*

#### See inside for...

- ◆ Nuclear option grassroots activism *Page 2*
- ◆ U.S. Supreme Court to review abortion law *Page 3*
- ◆ Walk for Justice *Page 3*
- ◆ Another year of pro-choice student activism *Page 3*
- ◆ Pro-Choice Lobby Day a success *Page 4*
- ◆ Volunteer Spotlight *Page 4 & 5*
- ◆ A laughing matter: Comedy for Choice *Page 5*
- ◆ Pharmacy refusals *Page 6*
- ◆ Choice Marathoners: Carrying the Torch *Page 6*
- ◆ Let the bidding begin! *Page 7*

### So-called "Positive Alternatives" signed into law

*Funds "crisis pregnancy centers"*



Regrettably, as this issue of *Pro-Choice Minnesota News* went to press, Governor Pawlenty signed the MCCL's "Positive Alternatives Act." The measure gives \$2.5 million each year to anti-choice crisis pregnancy centers. These agencies have a history of lying to and intimidating young women facing unintended pregnancies. These centers are not real medical facilities and by and large will not refer for abortion or even birth control.

The bill essentially is a handout to the MCCL (MN Citizens Concerned for Life). If the MCCL and governor were sincere about preventing the need for abortion, they'd push for more funding for family planning grants without political agendas.

NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota has labored hard to ensure that if the state insists on directing \$2.5 million in taxpayer funds into the coffers of crisis pregnancy centers, the state has the responsibility and moral obligation to require, at minimum, that:

1. Women visiting a CPC be given basic privacy protections that will prevent workers or volunteers from calling or harassing them after their visit;
2. Information given to women at the CPC must be medically accurate and not intended to distort the facts about abortion;
3. Adoption agencies such as Lutheran Social Services--which takes no stand on abortion--be eligible for funding.

With an anti-choice governor and a 60% anti-choice state legislature determined to give the MN Citizens Concerned for Life a

*(Continued on page 7)*



## NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

550 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103

651-602-7655 • 651-6027658 fax  
[www.prochoiceminnesota.org](http://www.prochoiceminnesota.org)  
[info@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:info@prochoiceminnesota.org)

The mission of **NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota** (a 501 c(4) non-profit organization) 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 choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion.

The mission of **NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation** (a 501 c(3) tax-deductible non-profit organization) is to educate citizens about past, present, and future reproductive health issues. Our educational programs work in the areas of student organizing, research, public education, and leadership development to promote reproductive policies that give women real choices in their lives.

The **NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Election Fund** is a state political fund devoted to electing pro-choice candidates to state office.

### NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Board of Directors

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Cindy Aegerter        | Jill Davidson  |
| Theresa DeRusha       | Paula Fynboh   |
| Kerri Gordon          | Scot Hall      |
| Kimberly Anne Johnson | Erin Ghery     |
| Geri Katz             | Amy Kodet      |
| Luanne Koskinen       | Robin Martinek |
| Lisa McDonald         | Heather Rein   |
| Glenn Schmitt         | Sonja Wahlberg |

### NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation Board of Directors

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Arlene Ashbach          | Dawn Bacon     |
| Jane Bowman             | Debra Bruers   |
| Brooke Myung McHenry    | Linnea House   |
| Julie Ingmire Seminitis | Jessica Jerney |
| Janet Keysser           | Laura McCarty  |
| Alison Neumann          | Melissa Stirn  |

### NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Election Fund Board of Directors

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Jim Bernstein   | Terrell Brown  |
| Natalie Collins | Dawn Erlandson |
| Jeremy Hanson   | Sue Landwehr   |
| Heidi Stennes   | Ruth Usem      |

### Staff of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Erin Broton                           | <i>Development Director</i>                  |
| Robynne Curlee                        | <i>Organizing Director</i>                   |
| Emily Doman                           | <i>Outreach Intern</i>                       |
| Missy Golke                           | <i>Canvass Field Manager</i>                 |
| Tina Higgins                          | <i>Office Manager</i>                        |
| Nikki Madsen                          | <i>Abortion Provider</i>                     |
| <i>Expansion Project Coordinator*</i> |  |
| Derek Burrows                         | <i>Communication &amp; Campaign Director</i> |
| Tim Stanley                           | <i>Executive Director</i>                    |
| Christine Steffen                     | <i>Legal &amp; Research Intern</i>           |
| Misty Worley                          | <i>Canvass Director</i>                      |

\* The Abortion Provider Expansion Project is a collaborative program between the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation and Pro-Choice Resources.

Continued from page 1

Americans.

The Democrats agreed to allow votes on three of the previously blocked nominees: William Pryor, Priscilla Owen, and Janice Rogers Brown. Two days later, the Senate ended debate on Priscilla Owen and approved her nomination in a 56-43 vote. The pro-choice movement has secured a partial victory by defeating Sen. Frist's and the White House's unprecedented power grab, but the battle is far from over.

Numerous phone calls, emails, and letters to the editor have preserved the filibuster. We now need to double those efforts against anti-choice nominees who don't respect our constitutional right to privacy. Pro-choicers must keep our voices heard as we look ahead at likely Supreme Court vacancies. Thank you to everyone who have taken action. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is breathing a sigh of relief, but we must not slow our efforts. We must work to oppose the remaining unacceptable nominees as well as an anticipated anti-choice Supreme Court nominee. The fight to preserve *Roe v. Wade* continues.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### *Pro-Choice Grassroots Activism Against 'Nuclear Option'*

- ◆ Over 1,000 phone calls were generated into Sen. Coleman's office to oppose the nuclear option. Several times, activists overloaded Sen. Coleman's voicemail system!
- ◆ In early May, several dozen pro-choice activists held two vigils outside of Coleman's St. Paul office (see pictures in the back of this issue). People dressed in judicial robes and "hazmat suits" and asked Coleman not to "nuke the Senate."
- ◆ The website set up at [www.SaveTheCourtMN.org](http://www.SaveTheCourtMN.org) has collected over 1,000 online petition signatures.
- ◆ We have collected over 2,500 signed postcards and handwritten letters against the nuclear option to Sen. Coleman. Letters were hand-delivered to Coleman's St. Paul office on two occasions by the field canvass staff.
- ◆ One commentary piece by Tim Stanley was printed in the *Star Tribune* and three letters to the editor were published from pro-choice activists.

## Walk for Justice

### Representing the pro-choice movement

Need an excuse to get out of the house and enjoy some fresh air? Well, now you have one...and you can support Choice at the same time. The NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation will participate in the Headwaters Foundation for Justice's *Walk for Justice*, an annual event that exists to raise awareness, solidarity and financial support for Twin Cities grassroots organizations that work to correct social, racial, economic, and environmental injustice. Dozens of groups walk together along a three mile course, displaying banners and signs, celebrating together the important work being done in our communities.

Last year was the first year NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation participated in this event, and boy, did we shine! Over 30 pro-choice activists walked for Choice – one of the largest groups in attendance. Not only that, but we were also ranked third of all the participating organizations in terms of most money raised. We definitely want to build on that momentum, recruit more walkers, and raise even MORE funds for Choice this year!

The **2005 Walk for Justice** will be held on **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** from **11:30 am – 3:30 pm** at **Boom Island Park in Minneapolis**. Get your walking shoes ready to help support Choice once again!

NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation is forming its team and beginning to collect pledges within the next few weeks for the September event. To walk with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota or to make a pledge, contact Erin Broton, Development Director by phone at 651-602-7655 or by email at [erinb@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:erinb@prochoiceminnesota.org). For more information on the Walk for Justice, visit [www.WalkForJustice.org](http://www.WalkForJustice.org).

## U.S. Supreme Court to review abortion law

### What constitutes health is key question

**BREAKING NEWS**

The Supreme Court's announced their intent to hear New Hampshire's appeal of two lower court decisions that struck down the state's law restricting young women's access to abortion. The Supreme Court is expected to hear the case next fall and make a decision within the next year.

The announcement occurs in the backdrop of a likely retirement by Chief Justice Rehnquist and heated battles in the U.S. Senate over federal court nominees. The New Hampshire case is the first abortion case before the Court in five years and is a reminder to Americans that the constitutional protections of *Roe v. Wade* hang in the balance of a 5-4 court.

At the heart of the case is the issue of what constitutional protections a young woman has to protect her health. Yes, you read that right. The Supreme Court will discuss whether it is necessary to have a health exception for certain abortion restriction laws, and if so, what constitutes health. Anti-choice leaders, after speaking about "activist judges" on one side of their mouth, now want the Supreme Court to make medical determinations in place of physicians.

In 2000, the Supreme Court overturned in a 5-4 decision a Nebraska abortion restriction law because, in part, it lacked a health exception. This law could allow the Court to over-rule or undermine a woman's constitutional right to protect her own health in terms of her access to safe and legal abortion. Stay tuned.

Pro-choice students at University of Minnesota-Duluth



## Another year of pro-choice student activism

### Building the next generation of leaders

NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is wrapping up another successful year of student organizing on 14 campuses in Minnesota.

Our campus representatives completed on-campus internships doing pro-choice education and activism with students across the state. Highlights from the Spring Semester included:

- ◆ *Roe v. Wade* anniversary celebrations on all campuses
- ◆ Back Up Your Birth Control Day activism on all campuses
- ◆ Over 50 students from across the state attended our statewide Pro-Choice Lobby Day

When you support NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota, you support educating and activating young people on pro-choice issues!

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Bryan Monro Armitage

#### Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm a former biomedical engineer who is entering my third year of medical school. I grew up on the East coast, attending Cornell University before moving to Philadelphia for 5 years in 1998, getting married in 1999. I decided to attend medical school at the University of Minnesota to explore living in a different part of the country. I spend my free time working on the 2 story addition I'm adding to my house, working as treasurer for the national board of Medical Students for Choice, and taking over the role of making orange marmalade for my family, a five generation tradition I assumed from my grandmother. I look forward to my next two years of clinical study and hope to practice orthopedics when I finish school.

#### Why are you pro-choice?

I would like to say I'm pro-choice because it just makes sense. Every time I go through the debate in

my head I come back to the same conclusion. With the help and guidance of their physician and other health care professionals, any person should have full control over their own choices in the health care they receive. Policies that mandate restrictions of choice do nothing but harm women's health and limit the ability of the doctor to deliver adequate health care to patients.

#### Why did you start volunteering at NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota?

My direct involvement with the pro-choice movement started in Philadelphia when I got involved with escorting because of my disgust of how people were treated when trying to use the local Planned Parenthood. From there I became more involved with the pro-choice community and came to volunteer for NARAL PA when they needed help with vote drives and other campaign activities. When moving to Minnesota for medical school I knew right away that I would be involved with

Medical Students for Choice, it was through this group that I became involved with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota.



#### Why do you think it is important for medical students to volunteer for choice?

Med students and physicians have privileged access to the most private and intimate parts of a patient's life. A major part of our training as medical students is to respect this privilege and address the specific needs of our patients. In order to do this our patients must have control over their own health decisions. It is important for medical students and doctors to stand up for a woman's right to choose because choice plays a central role in delivering health care that is best for each individual.



Rally on the Capitol steps during the Pro-Choice Lobby Day.

## Pro-Choice Lobby Day a success

### Over 100 participants in first year

On Thursday, April 14, pro-choicers from across Minnesota came to the Capitol in St. Paul for NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's 2005 Pro-Choice Lobby Day. Over 120 citizens met with their legislators at the Lobby Day, and many more participated in other parts of the day!

The morning was spent getting a legislative update on Choice-related legislation from Tim Stanley, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's Executive Director and Lobbyist. Participants learned the basics of citizen lobbying from two NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota board members with years of advocacy experience to the table. Meeting with legislators can seem intimidating to most people, but with the lobbying training attendees learned that legislators are real people who are more interested in hearing from their constituents than from anyone else! Feeling empowered, participants headed for the rally on the Capitol steps attended by over 200 pro-choicers, and then went to lobby their legislators on key pieces of Choice-related legislation.

Stay tuned for news of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's 2006 Pro-Choice Lobby Day. With your help, we can make it even bigger and better next year.

## Volunteer Spotlight

*Kathy Drazen*

*NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is proud to finally be able to shine the Volunteer Spotlight on Kathy Drazen, who has been volunteering in the office weekly for over three years. Despite repeated attempts to highlight her outstanding volunteerism in the Pro-Choice Minnesota News, Kathy has modestly shunned the spotlight insisting that she hasn't done enough to deserve it. A few weeks ago, after diligently working on our new folding machine, she proclaimed "Well, I think that now I can be the volunteer of the month" after finally getting it to work! We jumped at the chance to sit down with Kathy to talk with her about what motivates her to be a pro-choice volunteer.*

### Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm married and live in Eagan with my husband. We have chosen not to have children. I have been involved in feminist issues since the late 1970s, and have been a member and volunteer with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota and its predecessors to varying degrees since then.

### Why are you pro-choice?

Having decided not to have children, I became aware that women need choices. And becoming active in the pro-choice movement in the 1970s, when the political climate was very much about abortion rights, the right to choose became central to my understanding of the role of women in society. I also got to know women who were outspoken about the fact that they had abortions and I believed even more that this was something we needed to keep legal.

In Minnesota, it takes courage to be outspoken about Choice. So I needed solidarity with other pro-choice people, and I found that in volunteering.

### Why do you think it's important to volunteer for Choice?

I think it's important to volunteer because I respect democracy, and that means this issue—along with many other issues—will never be entirely settled. If our government is to function like a real democracy, these issues will be battled over for decades, and having fought this battle for decades with my time and money it is easy to get tired and want to give up and say "I'm going to let someone else do it this year". But I think that it's important to stay involved.

And as I head towards retirement years, it is a pleasure to take time out of my week to give to something I believe in and spend time with people who are a joy to be with.



## A laughing matter

*6th Annual Comedy for Choice - June 22*

Let the laughter begin. Described as "...the funny neighbor you hope will stop by to shoot the breeze..." (*Star Tribune*) is none other than Alex Cole – the headliner for NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Comedy for Choice.

Alex Cole, best known for his stand-up comedy routines throughout the country, delighted hundreds of pro-choice supporters at last year's event. He is definitely a favorite among the crowd, and we're excited for his return this year. Also back for another round of laughs is Kevin Kling, best known for his regular story-telling contributions to NPR's "All Things Considered." A Comedy for Choice fresh face is Holly Davis with her one woman show. More entertainers will be added. Check our website for updates: [www.prochoiceminnesota.org](http://www.prochoiceminnesota.org).

This year's event will be held Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the University of Minnesota's Saint Paul Student Center Theater. Tickets are \$25 in advance (\$15 for volunteers/students), and \$30 at the door (\$20 for volunteers/students). You can purchase tickets on our website: [www.prochoiceminnesota.org](http://www.prochoiceminnesota.org) or by phone at 651-602-7655.

### Why did you start volunteering with NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota?

Initially, back in the 1970s, I became involved because of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's founding mother, Betty Benjamin. After not being as active for a while, I came back in 2002 as a regular volunteer because I had early retirement and I knew I needed to continue working for Choice. Also, 2002 was the year that Coleman was challenging Wellstone and I was really afraid of losing a pro-choice vote in the Senate.

I went to three different political organizations that year looking for a good fit as a volunteer, and NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota is the organization that I felt utilized my time wisely and where I made a difference. I was put right to work, and I felt that the staff really appreciated my time and they still do.

There is no doubt in my mind that without NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota working to protect choice on the political front for the past 30-plus years, we would have seen reproductive rights in Minnesota eroded to a far greater degree than we already have. I have complete confidence in the effectiveness of this organization in protecting the right to choose at the Capitol, as well as building the pro-choice movement.

## Pharmacy refusals

### *We want to hear from you!*

The issue of pharmacists refusing to fill birth control and/or the emergency contraceptive Plan B (the morning-after pill) prescriptions continues to percolate nationally and here in Minnesota. Misconceptions about just how it is possible for a pharmacist to refuse to fill a legal prescription abound.

Here is where NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota stands on this issue:

- ◆ This should not be controversial -- if you walk into a pharmacy with a legal prescription for, you should walk out with the prescription filled -- no delays, no harassment, and no excuses.
- ◆ Pharmacies have a professional duty to dispense legally prescribed medication and must be held accountable for the actions of their employees.
- ◆ This issue really exposes how out-of-touch right wing politicians can be, when you consider that 95% of all American women use birth control at some point during their lives.

Here are a few facts about pharmacists and their alleged 'right to conscience':

- ◆ Minnesota statute Chapter 161.05 gives the Pharmacy Board the power to "deny, suspend, revoke or refuse" a license to a pharmacist who is guilty of unprofessional conduct.



# CHOICE MARATHONER

## Carrying the Torch

### *Sustaining the pro-choice movement*

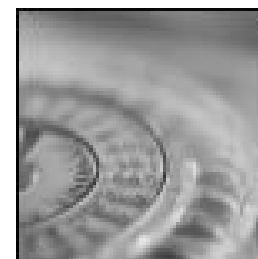
A trend is emerging among NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota supporters. Women and men from across the state are joining the *Choice Marathoners* program. Why? Because they are deeply committed to preserving Choice for the future and are willing to put their money where their opinion is. Because they want to make a commitment to support the movement and know that we are a lean and extremely efficient organization that converts every dollar raised into grassroots action.

*Choice Marathoners* help assure us raise the resources we need to protect women's lives. *Choice Marathoners* give a small gift every month, deducted from their credit card or bank account, and they never have to write a check. *Choice Marathoners* know that as long as they're in the program, they'll never receive fundraising mail from us. Some are *Choice Marathoners* because they want to make a sizeable gift to support Choice, but need to spread the payments out over a full year. Others are *Choice Marathoners* because they live too far away to volunteer.

*Choice Marathoners* carry the torch in preserving women's private medical decisions. To join, visit [www.prochoiceminnesota.org](http://www.prochoiceminnesota.org) or check the box marked *Choice Marathoner* on the envelope attached to this newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to sign up to be a *Choice Marathoner* over the phone, please contact Tina at 651-602-7655 or [tinah@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:tinah@prochoiceminnesota.org)

- ◆ Pharmacy Board rule 6800.2250 defines "unprofessional conduct" as including "Refusing to compound and dispense prescriptions that may reasonably be expected to be compounded or dispensed in pharmacies by pharmacists, except as provided for in Minnesota statutes, sections 145.414 and 145.42." (those two citations refer to abortion)

For the last several years NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota has been doing its homework on this issue. Watch this space and our website for our action plan to ensure pharmacy access. In the meantime, we want to hear from you. Please send us your story involving a pharmacy and any trouble you have had filling a prescription at [access@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:access@prochoiceminnesota.org) or get information at [www.prochoiceminnesota.org/s09issues/access.shtml](http://www.prochoiceminnesota.org/s09issues/access.shtml).



## WISH LIST

*We need the following items! If you have them around, please consider making a donation. Contact [info@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:info@prochoiceminnesota.org) or 651-602-7655 if interested.*

- ◆ Laser Printer (less than 3 yrs old)
- ◆ Oversized Envelopes
- ◆ Folders
- ◆ Glue sticks, markers, pens, and pencils
- ◆ Whiteboard
- ◆ VCR and/or DVD player
- ◆ Hospitality items: snacks, pop, bottled water, candy, etc.

Heather Herrington—both a loyal volunteer and a *Choice Marathoner* for more than a year—recently talked with us about her monthly gifts:

*"I became a Choice Marathoner because I am pro-choice, not pro-abortion, and I appreciate what NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota does with the money I give. Experiencing an unplanned pregnancy is stressful enough - I cannot even fathom what it would be like to be forced to not have options available. In promoting comprehensive sexual education and advocating for reproductive choice, NARAL does all it can to ensure my money is well spent."*

Monday, April 25, 2005 9A

## ABORTION RIGHTS

## The stories behind the proposed Positive Alternatives Act

The current push for the disturbing act also seeks to cover for the Parental Notification Data Act.

BY TIM STANLEY

After years of pushing its radical agenda on the people of Minnesota, wilting the patience of even their most diehard allies, the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life is on a charm offensive, engaging in its own version of "Extreme Makeover" by pressing for a new piece of legislation — the misleadingly titled Positive Alternatives Act.

What's new isn't that the group is using focus-group happy talk to promote its legislation, what's novel is its underhanded attempt to use this benevolent-sounding legislation to distract Minnesota's pro-choice majority from the group's sinister goal: eliminating the right of young women to access abortion and, at the same time, threatening the independence of the state's judiciary.

But don't be fooled. When you look closely at the Positive Alternatives Act, it's nothing more than a gambit to obligate the state to pay for the promotion of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's religious and ideological viewpoint that pregnancy is compulsory. No ifs, ands or buts.

Moreover, in this era of acute fiscal crisis, taxpayers should be appalled by the arrogance of the Positive Alternatives Act. Every last nickel of the \$2.5 million the bill makes available will end up in the coffers of crisis pregnancy centers, the sham, faux clinics that form the "provider arm of the anti-choice movement." These centers operate by luring women with the promise of help. But once they arrive, young women are often inundated with false, misleading and frequently shaming propaganda about sexuality, contraception and abortion.

But remember, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life has much riding on the Positive Alternatives Act because, while attention is focused on it, the proverbial man behind the curtain is working to slip something even more sinister through the Legislature.

Pull back the curtain on the Positive Alternatives Act and the people of Minnesota will find a cudgel the group would like to use to impose draconian measures on young women in Minnesota and the judges sworn to protect the interests of us all.

Let me explain. Conservatives across the country have been steadily ramping up their already red-hot rhetoric surrounding judicial independence and threatening impeachment for their rulings in the Terri Schiavo case, while judges and their families have been targets for assault and murder in Illinois and Georgia. Meanwhile, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life has been doing its part to place Minnesota judges in the crosshairs.

Scheduled for inclusion in the massive House Health and Human Services omnibus bill later this month is an initiative that would radically add to Minnesota's strict two-parent parental notification law for abortion and intimidate judges in the process. The provision, the Parental Notification Data Act, would require judges to provide the state with a county-by-county account of the number of judicial bypasses they have considered for minors seeking abortions without parental notification, regardless of outcome. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that this would pave the way for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life to identify these judges for electoral defeat — or worse.

Minnesota's judges are constitutionally obligated to grant bypasses or waivers to young women who can prove they are abused or can demonstrate they are mature and capable of informed consent. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's initiative is nothing more than a blatant attempt to intimidate local judges into refusing to grant waivers for fear of retribution.

Don't forget, its ultimate goal — overturning the right to personal privacy guaranteed in *Roe v. Wade* — is one the majority of Minnesotans do not favor. That basic fact forces the group to walk a fine line, hoping to take the public's eye off the ball long enough to get its legislation passed.

Regrettably, the cloak and dagger strategy appears to be working. With the hullabaloo this year over the Positive Alternatives Act, the nefarious stealth campaign to make abortion inaccessible to young women has gone largely unreported.

The plotlines of a typical legislative session can be confusing, and it's easy to lose track of all the stories coming out of the State Capitol.

But keep this in mind: Behind all of this — beneath the compassionate bill titles and the legislative legerdemain — is a very simple truth: Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life and its legislative allies want to impose their form of religious pluralism on all Minnesotans, regardless of judicial restraints, and they want to make us pay for it, too. If we let them get away with it, we will be on a slippery slope toward a state judiciary too scared of reprisal to be able to deal justice impartially.

Tim Stanley is the executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota. Please send comments to [letters@mndaily.com](mailto:letters@mndaily.com).

Continued from page 1

handout, we were unable to defeat this bill—but the pro-choice movement won't stand idle no matter what the odds are! Despite the uphill fight we prevailed in real ways that protect women because legislators heard from you.

The Legislature ended their regular session without passing the MCCL initiative called the "Parental Notification Data Act." A special session has now been called and NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota will be following developments. Currently, the PNDA resides in the House version of multi billion dollar Health and Human Services Omnibus bill being conferenced. Please read the commentary piece on the left for more information on this egregious piece of legislation.

## Let the bidding begin! Call for auction items

The search for auction items for NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota's annual House Tour and Silent Auction continues. We've had some very generous pro-choicers donate wonderful, unique items. But, we still need your help.

Are you a master gardener? Do you have a keen eye for interior decorating? Are you the best cook in the Twin Cities? Donate a few hours of your talent — they definitely won't be passed up!

Have tickets to an upcoming play at the Guthrie? Did you recently crochet a blanket? What about a gift certificate to a local grocery store? There is no item too big or too small.



Contact Erin at [auction@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:auction@prochoiceminnesota.org) or 651-602-7655 to discuss your donation.



# NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul MN 55103

info@ProChoiceMinnesota.org

CHECK INSIDE FOR THE LATEST  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATE  
LEGISLATURE AND SUPREME COURT.

ALSO: *Comedy for Choice!*

NonProfit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #1729  
Minneapolis, MN

Return Service Requested



Over two days before the anticipated Senate "nuclear option" (see inside story), pro-choice activists dressed in judicial robes and hazmat suits during rush hour in front of Sen. Coleman's St. Paul office. Activists demanded that Norm Coleman oppose the nuclear option in order to retain the filibuster for judicial nominees. Several thousand letters and petition signatures were hand delivered to Coleman's office. Sen. Coleman had no official response.

**Norm Coleman's St. Paul office  
Pro-choice activists urge Coleman  
not to "Nuke the Senate."**