



PRO-CHOICE MINNESOTA NEWS

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

Legislative Update

Election Victories Bring Legislative Success

What a difference one election can make. One year ago, the Minnesota Legislature was 60% anti-choice, and any common sense prevention-first legislation didn't stand much of a chance.

One year later, the State Capitol is a very different place. The 2006 election swept in 15 new Senators and 25 new House members, leading to a solid pro-choice majority in the Senate (36 of 67) and near majority in the House (63 solid, 8 mixed of 134).

Moving away from the obstructionist tactics of the previous anti-choice majority, this new pro-choice legislature recognized the necessity of proven prevention strategies such as comprehensive sexuality education, access to affordable family planning services, and the availability of emergency contraception in the effort to prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce the need for abortion. Solutions, not rhetoric and ideology, ruled the 2007 legislative session.

See Inside for...

- 2007 Legislative Score Card
- Canvass Update
- Volunteer Spotlight
- APEP Update

“EC in the ER” Becomes Law

Thanks to the tireless efforts of supporters, legislators, and activists, survivors of sexual assault are now guaranteed immediate access to vital reproductive health care, including emergency contraception and sexually transmitted infection treatment in ALL Minnesota hospital emergency rooms. After seven years of organizing, research, education and advocacy by NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota and our allies, “EC in the ER” officially became law on August 1, 2007.

With this needed legislation, Minnesota joins only 12 other states that require survivors of sexual assault receive the highest standard of health care, regardless of the religious affiliation of the hospital or physician.

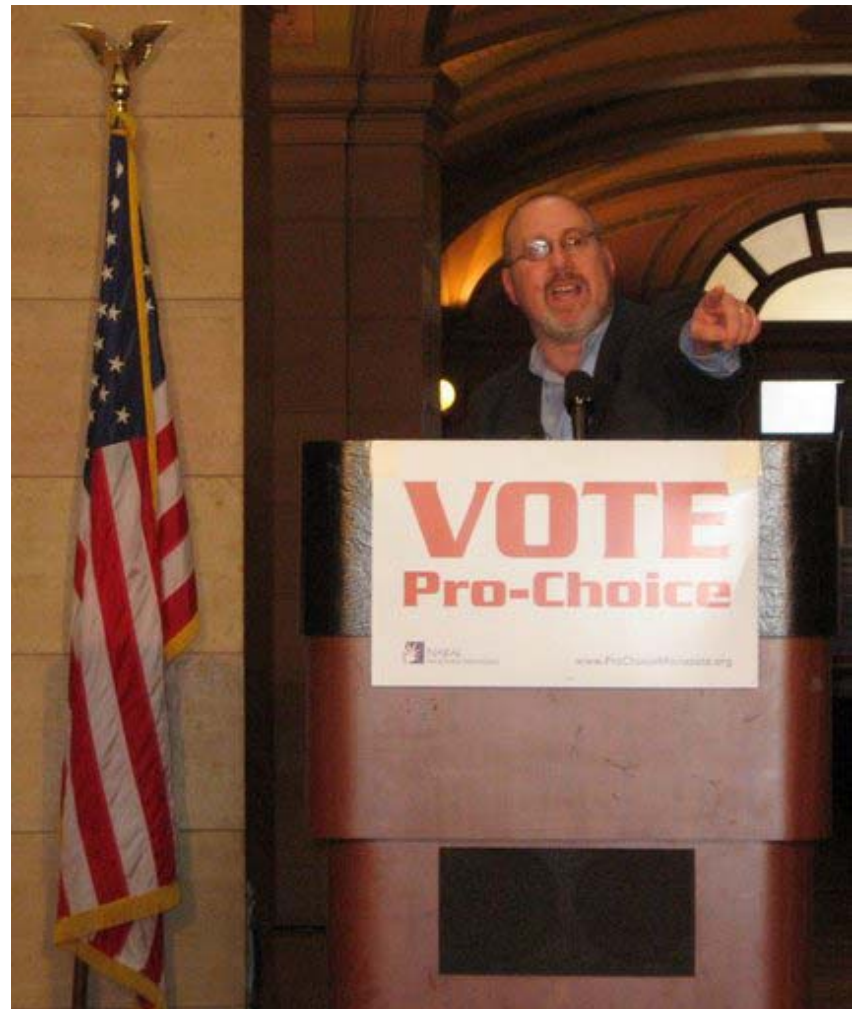
We wish to thank all the volunteers, supporters and legislators who worked hard to make this victory possible!

Support for Family Planning Clinics

Minnesota's family planning clinics provide essential health care services to women throughout the state. These clinics are often the first place women turn to for their health care needs. Along with our allies, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota advocated for legislation to bring needed support and assistance to these vital health care providers.

The family planning bill contained several key provisions that will help clinics reduce costs

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Representative Frank Hornstein (DFL) 60B speaking at Pro-Choice Lobby Day

Campus Preview

It is that time of year again when students all over Minnesota go back to school, and so does NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota. We are active on 14 campuses throughout the state, with events and activities occurring in connection with NARAL's mission and campaigns. We are in the process of hiring a student organizing intern to oversee several of the campuses. We are also hiring campus representatives at St. Cloud State University, Mankato, MCTC, and Hamline University for the upcoming academic year. This year the campuses will be focusing on a variety of new topics, including the Pharmacy Access Project, Prevention First, and Comprehensive Sexuality Education. Campuses will also be developing new methods of social networking on campus as well as collaborations with community partners and family planning clinics. If you are interested in being involved in the campus programs, email Heather at heatherh@prochoiceminnesota.org.



The NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Canvass staff

The Canvass Update

This is our 4th summer here at the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota canvass office and we are stronger than ever! Currently we are sending out 18 canvassers every night to organize the state of Minnesota around reproductive health issues. Since January we have knocked on 97,025 doors and have had 11,779 informative conversations. As a result we have recruited 7,883 new members! To date in 2007, we have organized over 20 towns and neighborhoods throughout Minnesota including Chanhausen, Mound, Orono, Minnetonka, Edina, Long Lake and Robbinsdale. We are also broadening our reach to rural communities such as Rushford, La Crescent, Lanesboro and Mable. Our goal is to organize, mobilize and educate all of Minnesota from top to bottom. We make connections with people and have real conversations about issues that affect our daily lives, making this type of grassroots organizing so important. The NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota canvass- we put the MOVE in movement!

NARAL canvass staff:

Misty Winters- Canvass Director
Missy Golke- Assistant Canvass Director
Rose Coleman-Field Manager
Tessa Mayer-Field Manager
Amanda Baldwin-Field Manager
Adam Lutterman-Trainer
Lindsay Moore-Trainer
Theran Brigowatz-Trainer
Candice Johnson-Canvasser
Jenna Carlson-Canvasser
Lisa Peplinski-Canvasser
Sonja Mathiesen-Canvasser
Amy Brown-Canvasser
Meghan Hein-Canvasser
Anya Galli-Canvasser
Jess Hausaur-Canvasser
Amelia Smith-Canvasser
Dan Parkinson-Canvasser

Volunteer Spotlight: Kathy Apostle

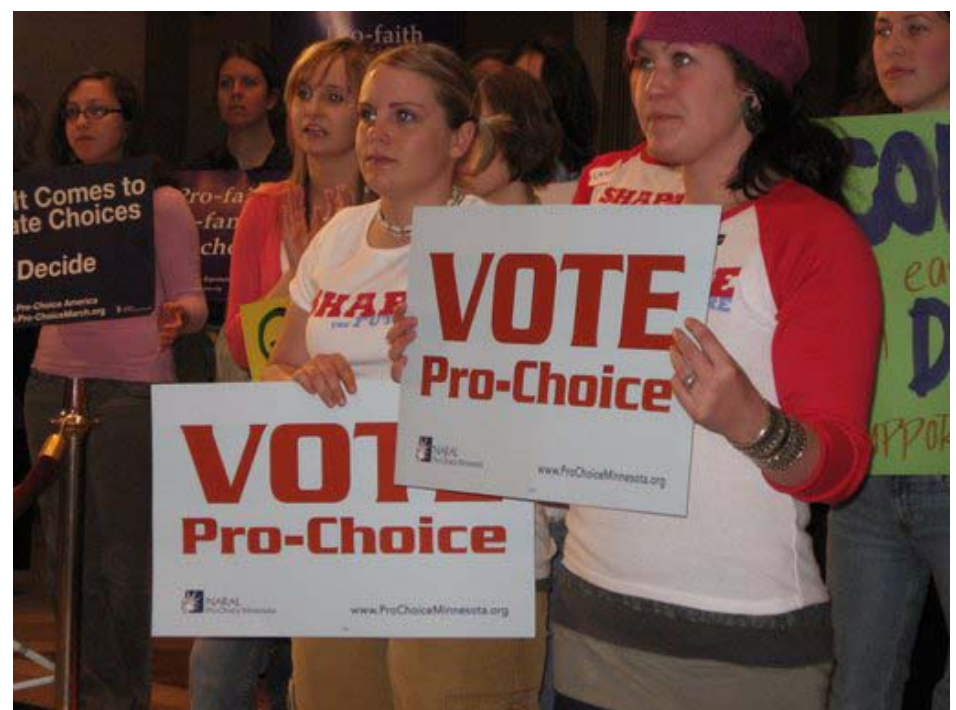


Why I Volunteer

Coincidentally, I am writing this on the day that, 53 years ago, my first child was born. My pregnancy was unplanned and was begun in the autumn of my sophomore year in college. I had had no information or education about sex or sexuality as I was growing up - only that "nice girls" don't even think about sex! Therefore, just asking questions was tacitly forbidden. Of course, my mother was convinced that I should abort--- but the only doctor available was a known alcoholic with a very bad medical reputation who demanded an astronomical fee and complete secrecy! I was in disgrace---a fallen woman. My "choices" were a very scary, secret, dangerous abortion or marriage and child-rearing by two not very mature parents- **no choice at all!** The child in question, despite his rather haphazard life as a young child, is a wonderful man now without whom my life would be drastically impoverished.

I volunteer for NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota because I don't want my grandchildren or their children to experience what I did. I want them to have comprehensive sexuality education so that they understand that, as human animals, sexual feelings and activity are a normal and quite wonderful part of the master plan/ spiritual life. I want them to have all the information and options to enable them to make **true choices**. I want them to have access to birth control - routine and emergency! I want them to know that this is not a struggle between good and evil but a struggle for women (and men) to celebrate and augment their unique spirituality by having **choices** about how to craft their lives and, in turn, have more resources to enrich the lives of others.

I'm a member of the Association of Universalist Women's Campaign for **Sacred Choices: Reproductive Rights** and **NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota** gives me another way to put my spiritual convictions into concrete action!



Canvassers at Pro-Choice Lobby Day 2007

(Continued from page 1)

and offer increased services to patients. In 2005, the legislature planned a 50% reduction in state Family Planning Special Project grants. These grants provide over 40 family planning clinics with funds to support education programs, birth control supplies, and outreach activities for over 100,000 people per year. The family planning legislation successfully repealed this reduction, and instead increased the grant program by \$2.13 million, for a total of just under \$10 million. Still, over 250,000 women in Minnesota lack needed support for family planning care.

The family planning bill also included a 25% increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate to family planning clinics for patient services. The Medicaid program is vital because it allows the state to use only \$1.1 million in state funds to leverage over \$9.9 million in federal funds. Since clinics were reimbursed a mere 40 cents per dollar, participation in this valuable federal program was financially unsustainable. This rate increase will help clinics continue to participate in this important program.

The final two provisions of the family planning bill will help clinics reduce costs associated with offering and dispensing birth control. The first allows family planning clinics to participate in the state's drug purchasing pool, ensuring access to reduced-price birth control and other medical supplies. The final provision allows nurses to dispense birth control under the orders of a physician. This change will be especially beneficial in Greater Minnesota where clinics have limited access to physicians and nurse practitioners.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Along with 88% of Minnesotans, NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota supports comprehensive sexuality education programs and curriculum that emphasize abstinence and also include comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate information so adolescents have the tools the need to make informed, responsible life decisions.*

In the 2007 legislative session, the Responsible Sexuality and Family Life Education Act made tremendous progress. The legislation was included in the final E12 Omnibus bill presented to the Governor. Despite widespread support and an ever-growing mountain of evidence supporting such programs, Governor Pawlenty chose to cater to ideological extremists and threatened to veto the entire Omnibus package over the sexuality education provisions. As a result, the sexuality education language was removed from the final Omnibus legislation.

Supporters of traditional, comprehensive sexuality education must continue to pressure all legislators and House and Senate leadership to stand up to the Governor and stand up for the health and wellbeing of Minnesota's youth by supporting this needed legislation.

* *Minnesota Parent Survey on Sexuality Education in Public Schools.* Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center. Division of Adolescent Health & Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota. March, 2007.



Pro-Choice Lobby Day Training

The Abortion Provider Expansion Project: Papaya Workshop Series

Of the nearly 7,000 primary care physicians licensed to practice in Minnesota, the responsibility for providing abortion care falls to just a handful of individuals. In 2006, 15 physicians provided over 90% of all the abortions performed in Minnesota.

The Abortion Provider Expansion Project (APEP), a joint effort between the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation and Pro-Choice Resources, is dedicated to increasing this pool of abortion providers, ensuring that women will be able to access safe medical care. And because one of the most critical reasons for a decline in access is the lack of comprehensive training in medical schools and residency programs, we focus much of our energy on supporting and encouraging these future providers.

Collaborating with partner organizations

Over the past year, for example, APEP has collaborated with key partner organizations to offer training in an early surgical abortion technique called manual vacuum aspiration (MVA). MVA can be used for miscarriage management, endometrial biopsy, and treatment of ectopic pregnancy, and because no electricity is needed, is easily employed in low-resource settings. Additionally, due to its safety, versatility, and low cost, MVA has great promise for primary care practices.

Despite this tremendous potential, however, there are few opportunities for clinicians to learn this important method. With assistance from the Reproductive Health Access Project in New York and the Midwest Access Project in Chicago, APEP has facilitated a series of innovative MVA workshops throughout the year, engaging medical and nursing students, physicians, and health educators in interactive, hands-on training.

Papaya workshops

What makes this workshop innovative is the use of papayas. A medium papaya is an ideal simulation model for MVA, and at \$3 per papaya is considerably cheaper than a standard \$300 plastic uterine model, allowing several participants to practice at once.

After observing a role play, discussing abortion options, and observing physicians completing a demonstration, workshop participants each experiment with this method using a papaya. With the help of physicians from Minnesota and the Midwest Access Project, we have offered this workshop to local physicians and medical residents, as well as medical and nursing students representing Medical Students for Choice from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota.

Participants are impressed by the simplicity and ease of the procedure, and are able to more clearly picture how they might apply abortion services in their practice. As one participant commented, "it's important for all health care providers to understand these procedures."

The papaya workshops were co-sponsored by the Abortion Provider Expansion Project (APEP), the Midwest Access Project in Chicago, the Reproductive Health Access Project in New York, and the University of Minnesota chapter of Medical Students for Choice.

APEP is a joint project of Pro-Choice Resources and the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation. Funding is made possible by grants from the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.

Explanation of The Senate Scorecard

- Wergin** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 85) to eliminate the 25% Medicaid rate reimbursement increase for family planning clinics. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 31 to 34.
- Robling** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 240) to increase funding to the Positive Alternatives grant program, which funds anti-choice crisis pregnancy centers. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 32 to 33.
- Neuville** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 110) to prevent any state health insurance program (such as Minnesota Care and Minnesota Medical Assistance) from covering abortion services. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 26 to 38.
- Pappas** moved **final passage** of the Compassionate Care for Sexual Assault Victims Act (SF. 1266, "EC in the ER"). NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **SUPPORTED** this legislation. It PASSED 65 to 0. This legislation became law on August 1, 2007.

SCORECARD KEY

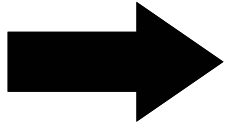
- + Denotes Pro-Choice vote
- Denotes Anti-Choice vote
- O Denotes No Vote/Not Present

The Senate Scorecard

SD	Party	Senator	1	2	3	4
66	DFL	Anderson	+	+	+	+
6	DFL	Bakk	+	+	+	+
61	DFL	Berglin	+	+	+	+
51	DFL	Betzold	+	+	+	+
43	DFL	Bonoff	+	+	+	+
38	DFL	Carlson	+	+	+	+
50	DFL	Chaudhary	+	+	+	+
15	DFL	Clark	+	+	+	+

SD	Party	Senator	1	2	3	4
64	DFL	Cohen	+	+	+	+
26	R	Day	-	-	-	Absent
60	DFL	Dibble	+	+	+	+
18	R	Dille	-	-	-	+
40	DFL	Doll	+	+	+	+
31	DFL	Erickson Ropes	+	+	Absent	+
14	R	Fischbach	-	-	-	+
47	DFL	Foley	+	+	+	+
21	R	Frederickson	-	-	-	+
37	R	Gerlach	-	-	-	+
13	R	Gimse	-	-	-	+
42	R	Hann	-	-	-	+
58	DFL	Higgins	+	+	+	+
11	R	Ingebrigtsen	-	-	-	+
49	R	Johnson	-	-	-	+
48	R	Jungbauer	-	-	-	+
19	R	Koch	-	-	-	+
12	R	Koering	-	-	-	+
20	DFL	Kubly	-	-	-	+
9	DFL	Langseth	-	-	+	+
63	DFL	Larson	Not Voting	Not Voting	Not Voting	+
44	DFL	Latz	+	+	+	+
32	R	Limmer	-	-	-	+
8	DFL	Lourey	+	+	+	+
30	DFL	Lynch	+	+	+	+
54	DFL	Marty	+	+	+	+
39	DFL	Metzen	+	+	+	+
41	R	Michel	+	-	+	+
47	DFL	Moua	+	+	+	+
28	DFL	Murphy	+	+	+	+
25	R	Neuville	-	-	-	+
17	DFL	Olseen	+	+	+	+
33	R	Olson, G.	-	-	-	+
4	DFL	Olson, M.	-	-	+	+
34	R	Ortman	-	-	-	+
65	DFL	Pappas	+	+	+	+
36	R	Pariseau	-	-	-	+
59	DFL	Poegmiller	+	+	+	+
7	DFL	Prettner Solon	+	+	+	+
45	DFL	Rest	+	+	+	+
35	R	Robling	-	-	-	+
24	R	Rosen	-	-	-	+
53	DFL	Rummel	+	+	+	+
56	DFL	Saltzman	-	-	+	+
3	DFL	Saxhaug	+	+	+	+
46	DFL	Scheid	+	+	+	Absent
29	R	Senjem	-	-	-	+
23	DFL	Sheran	+	+	+	+
57	DFL	Sieben	Not Voting	Not Voting	Not Voting	+
2	DFL	Skoe	-	-	+	+
10	DFL	Skogen	-	-	-	+
27	DFL	Sparks	-	-	+	+
1	DFL	Stumpf	-	-	-	+
5	DFL	Tomassoni	+	+	+	+
62	DFL	Torres Ray	+	+	+	+
52	R	Vandever	-	-	-	+
22	DFL	Vickerman	-	-	-	+
16	R	Wergin	-	-	-	+
55	DFL	Wiger	+	+	+	+

Explanation of The House of Representatives Scorecard



*Turn the page to
see the House
Scorecard!*

1. **Emmer** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 353) to eliminate the 25% Medicaid rate reimbursement increase for family planning clinics. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 49 to 81.

2. **Dean** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 513) to eliminate the funding increase to the state family planning grant program. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 49 to 81.

3. **Dettmer** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 353) to eliminate the funding increase to the state family planning grant program and give that same funding to the Positive Alternatives grant program, which funds anti-choice crisis pregnancy centers. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 58 to 72.

4. **Gottwalt** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 513) to prevent any organization that provides or refers for abortion from being eligible for state family planning grants. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 60 to 71.

5. **Peppin** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 513) to prevent any organization, or an affiliate of any organization, that provides or refers for abortion from being eligible for state family planning grants. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 60 to 71.

6. **Otremba** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 513) to prevent any state health insurance program (such as Minnesota Care and Minnesota Medical Assistance) from covering abortion services. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 64 to 68.

7. **Erickson** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 332) to require parental notification before oral contraception may be dispensed to minors. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 49-83.

8. **Brod** moved to amend the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill (SF. 2171, p. 315) to require all physicians who provide abortion to have medical privileges at a hospital with 20 miles. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 60 to 68.

9. **Brod** moved to amend the Prevention First Act (SF. 184) to require all family planning clinics to provide written parental notification at least 48 hours prior to dispensing oral contraception to minors. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 54 to 79.

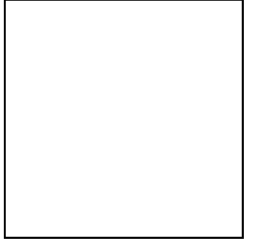
10. **Seifert** moved to amend the Prevention First Act (SF. 184) to prevent any state health insurance program (such as Minnesota Care and Minnesota Medical Assistance) from covering abortion services. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It PASSED 68 to 66. The Seifert amendment was later removed from the final bill in conference committee.

11. **Dettmer** moved to amend the Compassionate Care for Sexual Assault Victims Act (SF. 1266, "EC in the ER") to require a hospital that administers emergency contraception to a minor sexual assault victim, or an adult sexual assault victim who maintains health coverage through her parents, to notify the victim's parents of both the sexual assault and the provision of emergency contraception. NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **OPPOSED** this amendment. It FAILED 57 to 74.

12. **Slawik** moved **final passage** of the Compassionate Care for Sexual Assault Victims Act (SF. 1266, "EC in the ER"). NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota **SUPPORTED** this legisla-



NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota



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Heather Hirsch	Grassroots Organizer
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Melissa Reed	Political Director
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* The Abortion Provider Expansion Project (APEP) is a collaborative program between the NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota Foundation and Pro-Choice Resources.

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Event Reminder!

The Out of the House Tour

The 16th Annual House Tour & Silent Auction Benefitting NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota

The Out of the House Tour

Thursday, October 4, 2007
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Kingman Studios
1901 Grand Street NE
Minneapolis, MN
55418

Join NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota for a unique evening in Northeast Minneapolis. While enjoying the creative ambiance of this artistic space, you will be treated to a delectable selection of tapas, local music, a tour of Brant Kingman's artwork, and an eclectic silent auction.

Tickets are \$250 for a table of four, \$50 per person, & \$35 for students. Please RSVP by September 27, 2007 by calling 651.602.7655, online at prochoiceminnesota.org or with the enclosed RSVP card.