



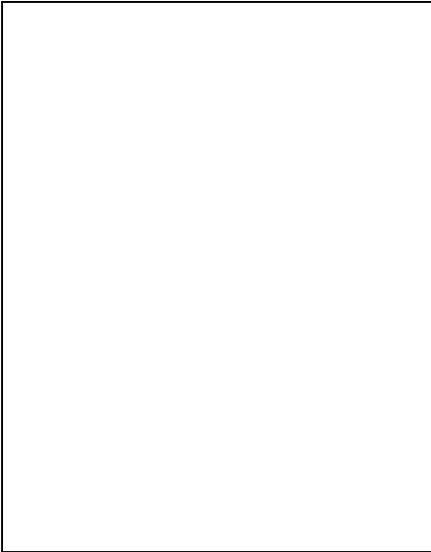
CHOICE Newsline

Monthly Publication of Minnesota NARAL and Minnesota NARAL Foundation, National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League

February 2003

Renewing the Commitment: *Celebrating 30 Years of Roe with Dr. Sarah Weddington*

A sold out crowd of over 600 people gathered at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center on January 22 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. The evening banquet was sponsored by the Pro-Choice Education Coalition (PCEC)—a partnership of the Minnesota NARAL Foundation, Midwest Health Center for Women, the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Planned Parenthood of Minnesota/South Dakota and Pro-Choice Resources, and volunteer assistance from Health Students for Choice. The event centered around our distinguished guest, Dr. Sarah Weddington (pictured at right). She was the lawyer who, at just 26 years old, argued the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case in 1973 that legalized abortion.



The evening was entitled "Celebrate and Reflect on 30 Years of *Roe v. Wade*." Because abortion has been legal for 30 years, there is now an entire generation of young women who have grown up not knowing first-hand the tragedy of unsafe abortions. It is PCEC's mission to prepare these women to defend choice in their own lives, and carry the fight for reproductive rights into the next century. For this very reason, PCEC accomplished its goal of having 1/3 of the attendees under the age of 30.

Former State Senator Deanna Weiner (Eagan) was the gracious emcee, sharing her passion and wit with the overflowing crowd. Dr. Sarah Wed-

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Anti-Choice Lawmakers Control Saint Paul *What to Expect in 2003*

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* commanding anti-choice majorities in both bodies of the Minnesota legislature and a governor beholden to the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), have placed the right to choose in its greatest peril to date.

The MCCL is already at work with their legislative initiatives to restrict a woman's right to choose and impede state funded family planning services. Here is what to look out for this winter:

24 Hour Waiting Period (a.k.a. "Woman's Right to Know")

Introduced and amended into many shapes and sizes over the years – and vetoed twice by Governor Ventura - S.F.18, requires that the name of the physician performing the

abortion as well as state-scripted information must be provided 24 hours in advance of the procedure (72 hours in advance if info is being mailed).

Gag Rules

Anti-choice attempts to attach a "gag rule" to family planning programs have been an ongoing battle for more than a decade. However, last year the MCCL attempted a broader initiative we dubbed the "**Super Gag Rule.**" The "Super Gag Rule" prohibits **any** state funds from going to organizations "refer, counsel, or provide abortions" as well as any organization that dares to consider abortion to be "part of the continuum of reproductive health services."

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Minnesota NARAL Announces its 2003 Pro-Choice Champions!

Jane Hodgson Reproductive Freedom Award:

Rosalie Goldstein

Given to the individual who has made vital contributions to the Minnesota pro-choice movement.

Volunteer of the Year Award:

Jill Davidson

Given to the individual who has made vital contributions to the Minnesota pro-choice movement.

Rosalie Goldstein has been a member of Minnesota NARAL since its inception in the late 1960s and has been a longstanding advocate for reproductive freedom. She was an active advocate throughout the 1970s and a board member of Minnesota NARAL (then called the Abortion Rights Council) in the 1980s. Since leaving the Board, Rosalie has been serving on the Abortion Rights Council PAC. She also continues to help out pro-choice candidates whenever she can.

During the 25th anniversary of Roe in 1998, Rosalie wrote the following: ‘Choice may be safe and legal today but there are forces hard at work to put a stop to that. Choice people MUST work even HARDER to guarantee ‘Freedom of Choice’ for a healthy future for all women.’

Jill Davidson has been a constant presence at Minnesota NARAL for the last three years. Jill started at Minnesota NARAL as the Silent Auction Intern, then as the Pro-Choice Education Coalition Intern and finally as the Hospital Provider Project Intern. Jill now works at a clinic as a reproductive health counselor, but she still volunteers for Minnesota NARAL. Jill volunteered during the

past election season by informing hundreds of pro-choice voters across the state regarding their pro-choice candidates.

“Working at the clinic is rewarding, but hard work, so volunteering with NARAL is uplifting and keeps me motivated,” Jill said. “It reminds me that we have dedicated people working for us in the political realm.”

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dington honored us with a captivating keynote speech. She began by reminding everyone how important it is to maintain a sense of humor, asking all of us to remember to laugh and to celebrate. She reflected on how she got the case of Roe v. Wade (they wanted ‘a woman lawyer who would work for free!’), the pageantry of arguing at the U.S. Supreme Court, and how she believed the fight for choice was finally over when she heard that she won the case. Dr. Weddington closed her speech with the message that the opposition is strong, and we need our young people to be the reinforcements to keep this fight for reproductive rights alive. The evening closed with Deanna Weiner asking everyone to recommit themselves to protecting choice in the difficult times to come.

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Family Planning Funding

Using the budget crisis as justification, the MCCL may try to reduce, divert, or eliminate **family planning** grants despite the indisputable cost saving and public health benefits of state funded family planning programs. (Every \$1 spent on family planning services saves an estimated \$3 in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related care and medical care for newborns. The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that subsidized family planning services in Minnesota prevents 23,600 unwanted pregnancies each year, nearly half of which will end in abortion.)

Constitutional Amendments

Two anti-choice **constitutional amendments** will undoubtedly be introduced by the MCCL again this year. Once passed by simple majorities in both houses, a constitutional amendment goes straight to the next state-wide ballot: 2004.

- One amendment, would ban all public funding of abortions in Minnesota, even those that are the result of rape, incest, or that endanger the life of the woman.
- The second amendment, would require the Minnesota Constitution to be interpreted like the U.S. Constitution on matters of abortion. This would eliminate the greater protection given to the women of Minnesota by our state Constitution and would allow abortion to be banned in Minnesota if *Roe* were overturned.

Minnesota NARAL

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Minnesota NARAL are not tax deductible.*

CHOICE Celebrations!

The 30th Anniversary Goes Statewide

↔ **Reflect, Meditate & Celebrate: A Breakfast to Commemorate Roe v. Wade!**

The Pro-Choice Education Coalition of Minnesota sponsored a breakfast to open the day of celebrations!

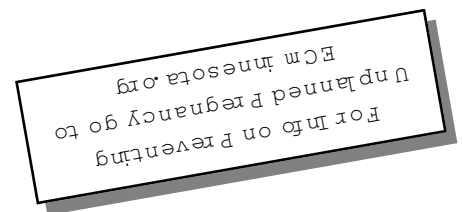
↔ **Reception, Dinner & Celebration with Sarah Weddington!**

Over 600 pro-choicers packed a room to celebrate the 30th Anniversary.

↔ **Brainerd Friends for Choice hosted a party for choice with fun, food and friends!**

↔ **Minnesota NARAL Interns celebrated Roe v. Wade on 15 campuses throughout the state!**

- 300 people in Central Minnesota, including students from the College of St. Benedict, heard Sarah Weddington speak at St. Cloud State University.
- Rallies and vigils were held at St. Olaf College, MSU-Mankato, U of M-Morris, and Gustavus Adolphus College.
- Students from U of M-Duluth, UW-Superior and St. Scholastica joined a community march and rally.
- In Bemidji, 40 people joined a ‘Celebration for Choice’ with speakers, music and food.
- Students from NDSU, Concordia College and MSU-Moorhead collaborated in a community choice celebration with the Women’s Network of the Red River Valley.
- Students from Augsburg College set up a library display to mark the day.
- Students at the U of M-Twin Cities wore armbans in commemoration.



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