

Public Affairs & Advocacy Legislative Updates National

Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act: This past summer, the US Supreme Court made a bad decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber. The Court ruled against Lilly Ledbetter-they said there is a limited statute of limitations-only 180 days from the time of first paycheck to file a claim on wage discrimination. Justice Ginsberg called on Congress to correct these laws. She urged Congress to make sure that the court's precedent can't be upheld. The House passed the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007 on July 31, 225-199 along party lines. The legislation helps clarify and restore Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Senate version, S.1843, is currently in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. A hearing was held early in February and Ledbetter gave testimony. There is a lot of opposition from the business community and it is responsible for delaying this bill. **Go to the National website and send a letter to your Senators.**

ADA Restoration: When the American with Disabilities Act passes in 1991, it was a landmark civil rights bill. The courts over the past few years have eroded civil right legislation, including chipping away at who is covered under ADA. The ADA Restoration Act-HR 3195, S. 1881, would attempt to close loopholes in the ADA's workplace provisions by clearly redefining the term "disability" to apply to any individual with a real or perceived physical or mental impairment. **Go to the National website and send letter to your members of Congress.**

Illinois Issues

Reproductive Justice and Access Act-HB5615: The act declares, "It is the public policy of the State of Illinois to ensure that all individuals have appropriate and necessary access to the full range of reproductive education, healthcare and services, including but limited to: prenatal care; adoption; contraceptive care, including timely access to emergency contraception; comprehensive sexual health education; and screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. House sponsors are: Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie-Rosemary Mulligan-Naomi D, Jakobsson-Elizabeth Coulson-Sara Feigenholtz-Julie Hamos-Elaine Nekritz-Karen May-Constance A. Howard-Lou Lang-and Karen A. Yarbrough. **If your representative is not listed here, urge them to become a co-sponsor.**

Healthy Workplace Act: Almost half of all private-sector workers in IL- 3 million-have no right to a single paid sick day. The proposed paid sick day bill:

- Allows employees to earn up to 7 paid sick days per year, accrued hourly for every 30 hours worked.
- One 8-hour day of leave is earned after working full-time for 6 wks. However, workers can take leave in hourly intervals for a shorter leave like a doctor's appointment.
- Provides leave: 1) for an employee's own illness; 2) to care for the illness of an employee's family member; or 3) for medical appointments.

Urge your representatives to support this House bill.

Planned Parenthood: On March 1, 2008, five Planned Parenthood affiliates in Illinois-Chicago Area, Decatur, East Central Illinois, Hear of Illinois and Springfield Area-will consolidate to become Planned Parenthood of Illinois or PPIL.