



TO: PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACTION FUND, INC.
FROM: CONGRESSMAN MARK KIRK
CANDIDATE FOR U.S. SENATE
SUBJECT: A SUMMARY OF CONGRESSMAN KIRK'S LEADERSHIP
ON WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS
DATE: JUNE 06, 2010

I am proud to be one of the leading pro-choice Republicans in the House of Representatives. From spearheading the effort to stand up to President Bush when he attempted to limit access to family planning both domestically and abroad, to ensuring access to contraceptives for low-income and college women, to helping low-income women in Illinois get Medicaid assistance for family planning services, I always strive to help women achieve reproductive freedom and security.

While I consistently have and will continue to support a women's right to choose, I do not, nor have I ever, supported federal funding for abortion. But as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I always supported funding for Planned Parenthood, Title X and international family planning programs. I support the codification of Roe v. Wade into law, and I support age-appropriate, medically-accurate, comprehensive sex education. Please see below for my full record as a champion for women's reproductive rights.

Awards and Past Endorsements

- 2004: Planned Parenthood Endorsement for 10th Congressional District Candidacy
- 2006: Planned Parenthood Endorsement for 10th Congressional District Candidacy
- 2008: Planned Parenthood Republicans for Choice Senator Barry Goldwater Award
- 2008: Planned Parenthood Endorsement for 10th Congressional District Candidacy

“Planned Parenthood endorsed Congressman Mark Kirk because he has a 100% voting record on critical reproductive health care issues. Congressman Mark Kirk was one of only five Republicans in Congress who stood up to President Bush to defend a woman's right to life-saving HPV vaccine for cervical cancer. Congressman Kirk is a champion for women's health and he has our strongest endorsement.” Pam Sutherland, 2008.

Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health and Family Planning in the US

- Consistently voted against the Pence Amendments to the Health and Human Services Appropriations bills to disqualify Planned Parenthood from participating in Title X programs (111th Congress - Roll Call 643; 110th Congress – Roll Call 684)
- Lead cosponsor of the Prevention Through Affordable Access Act (H.R. 398 and H.R. 4054) to restore nominal drug pricing for all safety net drug clinics and university health centers, primarily including contraceptives (111th Congress and 110th Congress, respectively)
- Consistently voted for the Sanchez amendments to the Defense Authorization bills, to provide our female servicemembers fighting overseas with the same rights and access to family planning services that women in the states have (109th Congress – Roll Call 216, 108th Congress – Roll Call 215; 108th Congress – 197)
- Cosponsored H.R. 2596, the Access to Birth Control Act, requiring pharmacies to fill contraceptive prescriptions (110th Congress)
- Cosponsored H.R. 2523 the Unintended Pregnancy Reduction Act of 2007 to amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to contraceptive services for women and men under the Medicaid Program, help low-income women and couples prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce abortion, and for other purposes (110th Congress)
- Cosponsored Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act, H.R. 464 and H.R. 2928, to require hospitals receiving federal funds through Medicare or Medicaid to provide emergency contraceptives to women who are survivors of sexual assault (110th Congress and 109th Congress, respectively)
- Led a letter with 11 other Republicans to President Bush requesting that he maintain current Title X regulations in the face of reports that HHS was going to propose a domestic gag rule (5/22/08). No such rule was ever proposed.
- Led a letter to HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt requesting that he abandon a proposed rule to allow physicians and other healthcare workers to abstain from providing women with full access to family planning services by establishing an overly broad definition of abortion, which could include even contraceptives planning (7/31/08)
- Worked with Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL), Planned Parenthood, and the IL Department of Healthcare and Family Services to secure final approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of a waiver to expand eligibility for Medicaid coverage of family planning services for all women in Illinois with incomes up to 200% of the poverty level. The waiver was approved by CMS on 12/21/2006
- Cosponsored H.R. 1652, Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act, to ensure that a pharmacy fills a doctor-prescribed prescription for a patient, or else directs them to a place where that prescription can be filled (109th Congress)

- Cosigned 2 letters to the FDA urging the approval of sale of Plan B, the morning-after pill, over the counter (7/13/2006). FDA finally approved Plan B for over-the-counter sales for women ages 18 and older on Aug. 24, 2006
- Cosigned a letter to President Bush expressing opposition to the appointment of Dr. Jack Keroack to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs at HHS due to his outspoken criticism of contraceptives (12/1/2006)
- Cosigned a letter to the CDC regarding the cervical cancer vaccine, urging science-based decision-making in approving the drug, rather than relying on some organization's fears that the drug will increase promiscuity because it prevents HPV (11/22/2005)

Ensuring Access and Funding for International Family Planning

- Voted against the Pitts and Smith amendments in the FY08 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R. 2764, which would have removed provisions in the bill to 1) allow a President to waive the one third abstinence only requirement of PEPFAR and 2) allow the contribution of contraceptives by USAID to all nongovernmental family planning organizations. Voted in favor of the Lowey Amendment to strengthen both of these provisions (110th Congress, Roll Calls 532, 534 and 533)
- Voted in favor of H.R. 5501, Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008, which reauthorized the PEPFAR program and eliminated the 1/3 earmark designated for abstinence-only education funding of HIV/AIDS foreign assistance (110th Congress, Roll Call 531)
- Cosponsored the Ensuring Access to Contraceptives Act, H.R. 2367 and H.R. 4736, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize assistance to provide contraceptives in developing countries in order to prevent unintended pregnancies, abortions, and the transmission of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS (110th Congress and 109th Congress, respectively)
- Cosponsored the Global Democracy Promotion Act, H.R. 4879 and H.R. 619, nullifying the Global Gag Rule (111th and 110th Congresses, respectively)
- Cosponsored Focus on Family Health Worldwide Act of 2005, H.R. 4188, to improve foreign assistance for voluntary family planning programs in developing countries (109th Congress)
- Voted against the Smith Amendment to H.R. 2601 to remove contraceptives from the list of services offered to poor women to prevent obstetric fistula (109th Congress – Roll Call 389)
- Cosponsored H.R. 1117, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Funding Act of 2001 to authorize \$85 million for UNFPA (107th Congress). Voted to fund this critical international family planning organization (108th Congress – Committee Roll Call 2 for H.R. 4818; 108th Congress – Roll Call 362)

- Voted against the Hyde Amendment to H.R. 1646, which left the Global Gag Rule intact in the Fiscal Year 2002 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (107th Congress, Roll Call 115)

Ensuring Equal Rights and Economic Empowerment for Women

- Cosponsored H.R. 5191 and 2965, Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive Act, to increase US financial and programmatic contributions to promote economic opportunities for women in developing countries (111th and 110th Congresses, respectively)
- Originally cosponsored H.J.Res. 40 (110th Congress) and H.J.Res.37 (109th Congress, 108th Congress), proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women
- Cosponsored H.R. 2103 and 3175, International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, to establish a multi-year strategy to prevent child marriage in developing countries and to promote the empowerment of girls at risk of child marriage (111th Congress and 110th Congress, respectively)

Ensuring Access to Critical Women's Health and Safety Programs

- Cosponsored the International Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), H.R. 4594 and H.R. 5927 (111th and 110th Congresses, respectively)
- Cosponsored the Ovarian Cancer Biomarker Researcher Act, H.R. 1816, to make grants to programs which research the early detection of ovarian cancer (111th Congress)
- Cosponsored the Gynecological Cancer Education and Awareness Act, H.R. 2941, H.R. 1245, H.R. 3438 (111th, 109th and 108th Congresses, respectively)
- Cosponsored H.R. 2876, VAWA reauthorization (109th Congress). Became Public Law 109-162 on 1/5/2006
- Cosigned letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to provide full funding for VAWA programs in the President's FY08 budget (714/06)