

voice

IN OUR OWN

National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

April 2016 Newsletter

Standing United in Opposition of the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act

In Our Own Voice joined with the community of reproductive health, rights and justice organizations and submitted testimony to the House Judicial Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, April 14.

The all male subcommittee heard testimony on the misleadingly titled Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, or PRENDA. Once again, Rep. Trent Frank (R-AZ) has introduced this bill that targets women of color who seek abortion healthcare services. It is yet another obvious attempt to limit abortion access by imposing "criminal penalties on anyone who knowingly or unknowingly assists with an abortion" sought on the basis of sex-selection or race-selection. To view testimony submitted by the community of Black women Reproductive Justice organizations, click [here](#).

Hours before the hearing Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) and Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA-46) joined with reproductive health, rights and justice advocates for a press conference on Capitol Hill to publicly denounce the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act.

Check out the opinion piece on the potential harmful implications of PRENDA written by Marcela Howell, In Our Own Voice and Miriam Yeung, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum currently running in [TheHill.com](#).



In Our Own Voice Calls Out the Hypocrisy of the Anti-Choice Movement

**“IT’S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS that
REP. DUFFY’S CONCERN FOR LIFE
ENDS AS SOON AS THE UMBILICAL CORD IS CUT.”**

—Rep. Gwen Moore, Congressional Black Caucus



In Our Own Voice promoted a week long ad campaign, March 14-18, calling out Rep. Sean Duffy’s (R-WI) suggestion that members of the Congressional Black Caucus aren’t “standing up for their communities” if they support abortion access.

“Congressman Duffy is just one example of a politician whose “pro-life” agenda ends after birth. He and his colleagues repeatedly vote against black women and children—from Medicaid expansion and minimum wage increases to access to contraception, medically-accurate sex education and affordable access to abortion. The anti-choice agenda puts black women at risk, and it’s long past time to end the hypocrisy,” said Marcela Howell, founder and Executive Director of In Our Own Voice

The campaign included homepage takeovers on the websites of major Washington, D.C. publications, including *The Hill*, *Politico*, and *Roll Call*. A hardcopy wrap ad was also include with the Washington Post, and distributed to all Congressional offices on March 15. Click [here](#) to get the facts about the anti-choice political agenda.

Amplifying the Voices of Black Women

Marcela Howell, Founder and Executive Director for In Our Own Voice presented at a press briefing hosted by Ipas, Ibis Reproductive Health and All*Above All. The briefing highlighted a recently released report, [How The Helms and Hyde Amendments Harm Women and Providers](#). Marcela discussed the [EACH Woman Act](#) and its potential impact for Black women.

In Our Own Voice staff and partners were also busy the last few weeks presenting at several other conferences and events to lift up the voices of Black women to affect policy change; including at the [Feminist Campus' 12th Annual National Young Feminists Leadership Conference](#), the [National Council of Jewish Women's Annual Legislative Conference](#) and the [35th Annual Civil Liberties & Public Policy Conference](#).



Organizational Partner Updates

Is our health worth 10 minutes? That's the question *Black Women's Health Imperative* is asking in a blog about the Zubik v. Burwell Supreme Court Case. The case centers on challenges from religiously affiliated nonprofit organizations that find the current [accommodation](#) an undue burden.



The truth is that the denial or limitations of contraceptive coverage by employers causes an undue burden on women – especially Black women – by limiting their rights to determine their own reproductive care options. [Click here to read the blog.](#)



On May 6 *Black Women for Wellness* will participate in the City of West Hollywood's kick-off to the 10th Annual West Hollywood Women's Leadership Conference with an exclusive FREE screening of the new documentary "*Trapped*" by award-winning filmmaker Dawn Porter.

For full details and to RSVP, visit www.wehowlc.org.

[New Voices Pittsburgh](#), the New Voices Reproductive Justice Leadership Network and their partners are coordinating the Pittsburgh Slutwalk to put an end to rape culture and victim blaming. The event is taking place on April 15 at 4:00pm. To learn more about this event go to

<https://www.facebook.com/events/213075245721593/>



New Voices Philadelphia is teaming up with the Women's Medical Fund for their first Reproductive Justice 101 Training. The **RJ 101: A Workshop on Reproductive Justice** will take place on April 16. To learn more about this event go to

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1595304040793785/>



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