



the voice for choice

Spring 2008

Governor Signs the Buffer Zone Bill into Law!

New Law Increases Public Safety Outside of Reproductive Health Clinics

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts worked hard last year to pass a strong buffer zone law that protects patients and staff outside of reproductive health clinics. With the leadership of lead sponsors Sen. Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester), Sen. Susan Fargo (D-Lincoln), Rep. Carl Sciortino (D-Medford), and Rep. Marty Walz (D-Boston), the Buffer Zone Bill moved successfully through both the House and the Senate, reaching Governor Deval Patrick's desk in the late fall. The Governor signed the bill into law on November 13, 2007, marking a major victory for women in Massachusetts!

A new, stronger buffer zone law was necessary and overdue. The prior Massachusetts Buffer Zone Law, enacted in 2000, was a compromise that resulted in a six-foot

"bubble" within an 18-foot zone of regulated conduct outside of reproductive health care facilities. A person could not knowingly approach another person within the six-foot "bubble" unless they obtained that person's consent.



Governor Deval Patrick signs the Buffer Zone Bill into law.

In December 2006, NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts conducted a survey of ten Massachusetts reproductive health clinics to assess the impact of the 2000 law. Most clinics reported regular protests, and they all supported expanding the buffer zone.

While better than no law at all, the old "bubble in a buffer" proved extremely difficult to enforce due

to its complexity and vague language regarding consent. As a result, it did not adequately protect public safety, and women and medical staff were often intimidated and harassed. The new law provides them with essential protection by creating a fixed, 35-foot buffer zone surrounding the entrances and driveways of all reproductive health facilities in the state.



Sen. Susan Fargo and Political Director **Kelly O'Bryan** at the bill signing.

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts worked in coalition with other organizations, legislative allies, and key players concerned about public safety to pass this important law. Members like you were critical to our efforts. Thank you for your commitment and activism around this critical issue!

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts Welcomes Andrea Miller as New Executive Director

In late February, longtime reproductive rights and women's health activist Andrea Miller became the new Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. She assumes the leadership in a critical election year when NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts is poised to build on its past victories to benefit women and families throughout the Commonwealth.

Andrea has been a pro-choice advocate for nearly twenty years, serving in the leadership of

and as consultant to a host of national, regional, and local reproductive rights and health organizations. She was selected by the Board of Directors to take the helm of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts after a nationwide search to replace former Executive Director Melissa Kogut.



Andrea Miller joins NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts as its new Executive Director.

Before relocating to attend Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Andrea was a principal at Public Interest Media Group, a national communications and public affairs firm based in New York City.

She was a key player in devising and implementing the successful strategy to gain over-the-counter access to Plan B, the emergency contraceptive pill.

Before joining PIMG, Andrea helped found the Center for Reproductive Rights and was the organization's communications director for its first five years. She started her professional career at the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project.

Andrea has already begun working with our pro-choice political leaders and committed members across the state. She is excited by the opportunity to make Massachusetts a model for the nation – in her words, "a place where childbearing choices are protected and respected."

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choice@prochoicemass.org
617-556-8800

Our mission is to develop and sustain a grassroots constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing safe, legal, accessible abortion.



From the Executive Director

Dear Members and Supporters,

I'm sure I don't have to tell you that 2008 is a critical election year. Or remind you of the profound and devastating effect anti-choice politicians can have on a woman's right to make personal, private medical decisions about pregnancy and childbearing.

Still, I can't help but share with you my excitement about what we're doing to elect pro-choice leaders and promote reproductive health here in Massachusetts:

Launching the *Protect and Elect Campaign* to mobilize pro-choice voters to support candidates who will defend privacy and safeguard women's health.

Advocating to protect safe, legal abortion and to improve access to family planning services and medically accurate health education on Beacon Hill.

Gathering to celebrate and strategize together at *In Choice Company*, *Chocolate Madness*, *Champions for Choice*, and more.

On a personal note, I want to say how honored I am to have been selected to be the Executive Director here. I know that an organization's strength is in its members and volunteers, and I want to thank you for your continued support and commitment.

For choice,

Andrea Miller
Executive Director

The Choice Leadership Circle

We are grateful to the following donors for their generous gifts of \$1,000 or more to NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts or the Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation since 2006.

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NARAL Pro-Choice MA Launches Protect & Elect Campaign

Works to Elect Pro-Choice Candidates

The 2008 elections come at a pivotal time for reproductive rights and health. Symbolically, they coincide with the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. This landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision recognized that the constitutional right to privacy includes a woman's decisions about pregnancy and parenthood. But last year's Supreme Court ruling was a disturbing reminder that we must still work hard to safeguard access to safe, legal abortion.

Reshaped by two new Bush appointees, the Supreme Court upheld a nationwide ban on certain abortion methods which made no exception to protect a woman's health. No longer able to rely on federal protections for the right to choose, we have a responsibility to elect more pro-choice leaders here in Massachusetts.

The 2008 *Protect & Elect Campaign* is part of a national effort to put a pro-choice president back in the White House

and to continue to elect pro-choice legislators on the state level. This election year, NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts is poised to build on our past victories.

In 2004, we worked hard to elect the very first pro-choice majority to our House of Representatives. We added to that majority in 2006 and 2007, but the House is still closely divided on our issues. That's why, in 2008, we must *protect* our gains from years past and *elect* new pro-choice candidates to office.

We are organizing teams of volunteers across Massachusetts to register voters and engage new activists. Teams are already in place in East Cambridge, the Brookline/Newton/Wellesley area, and on the Cape. We are also holding phone banks in our Boston office to identify pro-choice voters. If you would like to get involved with the campaign, email Heather at heather@prochoicemass.org or call her at 617-556-8800 x13.



Legislator Spotlight: Rep. Jim O'Day

In early 2007, Jim O'Day was elected State Representative in a special election to replace outgoing legislator Jim Leary. NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts endorsed Jim and worked to elect him to the 14th Worcester district, which includes part of Worcester and West Boylston.

Growing up, Jim's family emphasized the importance of public service. Therefore, it is no surprise that Jim was a licensed social worker at the Department of Social Services for 23 years, dedicated to helping children and working families. He holds leadership positions in several community organizations focused on child welfare and coaches in the Little League and Youth Basketball League in West Boylston, where he



lives with his wife, Marybeth Murphy O'Day, and their four sons, Patrick, Kevin, Tyler, and Max.

Jim feels strongly that women should have the right and ability to make their own reproductive decisions. He is committed to protecting the right to choose, increasing access to reproductive health care, and ensuring the safety of

those seeking access to reproductive health facilities.

Jim even made his first speech on the floor of the House of Representatives in support of the Buffer Zone Bill, which has since been signed into law by Governor Patrick. He is a strong voice for choice at the State House, and NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts salutes his commitment!

Upcoming Events Around the State...

Chocolate Madness: Special 25th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday, April 29
7:30 – 9:00 pm
The Cyclorama, Boston

Tickets are \$45, and
sponsorships start at \$150

Join more than 600 pro-choice
supporters for this all-you-can-eat
chocolate extravaganza!

In Choice Company

Saturday, May 3
Noon – 2:00 pm
Solea Restaurant, Waltham

\$10 suggested donation.

Please join us as we honor Rep.
Peter Koutoujian (D-Waltham)
with our "Trailblazer Award."

Rep. Koutoujian will discuss how
his recent work to reduce health
disparities relates to women's
reproductive health.

Champions for Choice

Wednesday, September 10
6:00 – 8:30 pm
Veronique Ballroom, Brookline

Tickets are \$150, and
sponsorships start at \$250

This year, we are delighted to
honor Ken Edelin, MD, and Jesse
Mermell for their leadership and
advocacy to support a woman's
right to choose.

**Learn more online at
[www.prochoicemass.org!](http://www.prochoicemass.org)**

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts Educates Supporters Around the Commonwealth

CHAMPIONS FOR CHOICE

Champions for Choice honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and advocacy to protect privacy and promote reproductive health. The 2007 honorees were **Kathryn R. Burton**, formerly of the Abortion Access Project and currently at the Barbara Lee Family Foundation, and **Lolly Delli-Bovi**, MD, Medical Director at Women's Health Services.



We were proud to honor **Kathryn R. Burton** (left) and **Lolly Delli-Bovi**, MD, (right) as the 2007 Champions for Choice.



More than 100 supporters came to the event, including (l to r): **Leslie Weiner**, **Vlema Graham**, and **Diane Hallenborg**.

STAND UP FOR CHOICE ON CAPE COD

Last October, NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts and the Cape Cod Action Team were pleased to welcome Nancy Keenan, President of NARAL Pro-Choice America, to Stand Up For Choice in Yarmouth Port.



Cape Cod Action Team (l to r): **Elaine** and **Peter Bono**, **Marcy Woods**, **Deb Whitney**, **Kathy Fayerberg**, and **Connie Nicholson**.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS SINCE ROE V. WADE

January 22 marked the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision legalizing abortion throughout the country, and NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts commemorated this historic ruling at events around the state.



On January 22, we hosted a breakfast reception at our office in downtown Boston and released *I Am Pro-Choice Massachusetts*, a booklet of 35 personal stories collected by NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. Pictured above: **Rep. Carl Sciortino** (left) and **Rep. Sarah Peake** (far right).



The Massachusetts Coalition for Choice held a press conference at the State House on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. **Attorney General Martha Coakley** (pictured above), Rev. Anne C. Fowler, and Lolly Delli-Bovi, MD, spoke about the importance of this historic anniversary.



In Amherst, we held our annual *Roe* anniversary event with the Abortion Rights Fund of Western Mass and Tapestry Health. Rev. Katherine Hancock Ragsdale was our featured speaker. Pictured above (l to r): **Rev. Ragsdale**, **Rep. Ellen Story**, and Executive Director **Andrea Miller**.

State Representative Katherine Clark Addresses Crowd at Annual Meeting

Organization Honors Lead Sponsors of Buffer Zone Law

The recently elected state representative from Melrose and Wakefield, Katherine Clark, spoke last month at the NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts Annual Meeting, held at the Law Offices of Holland + Knight in Boston. She addressed a packed room of supporters and activists who were eager to hear about the importance of elections.



Rep. Katherine Clark speaks about the importance of elections.

political activism in elections. Rep. Clark highlighted the role that NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts played in her recent campaign and encouraged those in attendance to volunteer for pro-choice candidates this fall.

Stacie Garnett, Deputy Director for Programs, presented Gail Epstein with the Robin Ault Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award. Gail first volunteered for NARAL

Pro-Choice Massachusetts in 2001 and has been very active since, serving on the GAIN Access Committee and Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation Board, as well chairing the Diversity Committee. Stacie thanked Gail for her tireless efforts to increase access to quality reproductive health care for all women in Massachusetts.

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts also honored the lead sponsors of the 2007 Buffer Zone Law. Executive Director Andrea Miller presented certificates to Sen. Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester), Rep. Carl Sciortino (D-Medford), and Rep. Marty Walz (D-Boston). The fourth honoree, Sen. Susan Fargo (D-Lincoln), was unable to attend. Thanks

to their dedication and leadership, this law now provides essential protection to patients and medical personnel outside of reproductive health clinics around the state.



Honoring the Buffer Zone Law leaders (l to r): **Sen. Chandler**, Executive Director **Andrea Miller**, Political Director **Kelly O'Bryan**, **Rep. Walz**, and **Rep. Sciortino**. **Sen. Fargo** is not pictured.

Incoming Board Chair Rev. Anne Fowler thanked Happy Green, who is stepping down as Board Chair. Happy provided invaluable leadership over the past two years, especially during the executive transition last fall. Happy will remain on the Board and continue to serve on the Development Committee.

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts members also ratified the 2008 Board of Directors slate at the Annual Meeting.

Pop Quiz, Hot Shot!

Question 1:

What was the original name of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts?

- (a) MassChoice
- (b) MORAL
- (c) MassNARAL

Question 2:

What Supreme Court decision legalized birth control for married couples?

- (a) *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*
- (b) *Griswold v. Connecticut*
- (c) *Eisenstadt v. Baird*

To see the answers, visit:
www.prochoicemass.org

Get Pro-Choice Email Alerts!

Join the Choice Action Network (CAN) so you can receive regular email alerts with up-to-date information on issues relating to reproductive health, family planning, abortion, health education, and much more.

You will also learn about NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts' political work, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events in your area.

To sign up for CAN, visit:
www.prochoicemass.org

Make Reproductive Rights Your Legacy

A planned gift to NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts is a great way to support reproductive rights beyond your lifetime.

There are various financial vehicles available to donors who want to protect and expand reproductive choice in the years to come.

For more information, please contact Pem Brown, Development Associate, at 617-556-8800 x14 or pem@prochoicemass.org.



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Around the State

Visit us online at
www.ProChoiceMass.org
News. Events. Politics.

Chocolate Madness: Special 25th Anniversary Celebration!

On April 29, more than 600 pro-choice supporters will gather to sample chocolate delights prepared by 30 of the area's finest restaurants and bakeries. You don't want to miss this one-of-a-kind event!

Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased online.
We will sell out, so make sure to buy your tickets today!

Tuesday, April 29, 2008
7:30 – 9:00 PM
The Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts
539 Tremont Street, Boston's South End

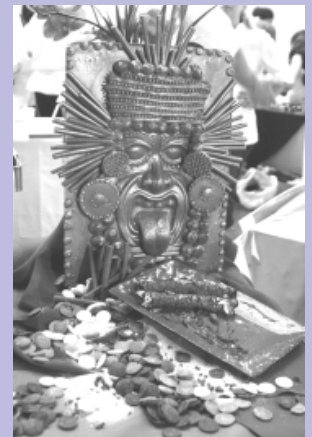


Photo © 2007 Megpix
Photography

To see the growing list of restaurants who are
donating the tasty fare or to buy your tickets:

www.prochoicemass.org/chocolate

For more information, contact Abby Thorp at 617-556-8800 x11 or abby@prochoicemass.org.