



NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS

**N**<sup>OT</sup> **I**<sup>N</sup> **O**REGON

## Proposed Oregon Ballot Measure to End Public Funding for Abortion a Nonstarter

Here in Oregon, anti-choice activists once again failed to gather enough signatures to get their initiative designed to end public funding for abortion on the 2014 ballot. Oregon is currently one of only 17 states who utilize state dollars to support coverage for abortions.

Supporters of the proposed constitutional amendment, which would have required that “no public funds shall be used to pay for any abortion, except when medically necessary or as may be required by federal law.”, gathered only a little more than 95,000 signatures, well short of the 116, 284 required to get the initiative on the ballot.

It is both gratifying and reassuring to know that Oregon women will continue to have access to coverage of this vital part of their reproductive healthcare services. Oregonians should continue to be proud that we are currently the only state in the nation without any legislative restrictions imposed upon women’s ability to freely access their legal right to obtain abortion services.

But we know this was not the first, nor is it likely to be the last time we see this kind of initiative proposed. So we advocates of reproductive freedom must be prepared to remain ever vigilant and willing to act if needed, to protect the reproductive healthcare access rights of all Oregon women, both now and in the future.



### Cover Oregon/OHP Update



The state of Oregon has had the distinction of providing abortion coverage through our Oregon Health Plan since its inception in 1994. NRO and other reproductive health care advocates worked cooperatively with progressive policymakers to help ensure that pregnant women were able to expedite their applications within 48 hours as required under DHS policy. Then in 2013 came the passage of the Affordable Care Act (also known as ObamaCare). Although Oregon would continue to support public funding for abortion under this new program, there have been several changes to the way that low-income, pregnant women apply for and receive coverage since the launch of Cover Oregon in October of 2013.

The new applications were lengthy, and during the first few months of this new program, our Hotline Advocates received calls from some Oregon women describing application processing times of up to five to eight weeks.

In response to the concerns of our clients, NRO participated in some conference calls along with representatives from Oregon Mother’s Care, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, and other inter-

ested reproductive health care advocates to provide input to Oregon Health Plan officials as they continued to fine-tune the roll out of the program.

Nine months later there have been noticeable improvements. Although the expedited applications policy is no longer in force, Hotline callers now report wait times of 1-2 weeks on average. Oregon Mother’s Care now actively help women with the process and Planned Parenthood Chapters around the state have hired staff specifically to assist women in completing their applications. In addition applicants are no longer required to get a “proof of pregnancy” test.

However, one impact of these changes to the work of NRO is that our Hotline Advocates often need to pledge funds to women pending approval of their applications to allow them to receive services as early as possible in their pregnancies. Although these funds are released when the woman’s application is approved, it ties up those funds, sometimes for several weeks, before we are able to offer them to other women in need.

Summer/Fall  
2014

#### Board of Coordinators

Claire Syrett

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Penny O’Leary

Hilary Prager

Jennifer Webster

Cecilia Story

Katherine McGuinness

Jennifer Jones

#### Staff

Susanne Boling

Jean Schauerman

#### Mission

*Empowering women & promoting reproductive justice by eliminating barriers to abortion access, providing opportunities for comprehensive, grassroots sexual & reproductive health care education, and supporting access to a full range of reproductive options for all women*



# A Word From NRO's President



The past few months at NRO have been exciting for board members, volunteers and staff as we have seen the results of our collaboration and hard work in achieving important goals for improved service delivery, fundraising, and board development. Following a very productive series of strategic planning sessions, NRO successfully completed a project creating an on-line platform for operating our Women In Need (WIN) hotline response and service delivery. This means the program can be run with much greater efficiency and supported by volunteers located anywhere with phone and internet access. (If you are interested in learning more about becoming a WIN volunteer contact: [info@nroptions.org](mailto:info@nroptions.org) or 541-345-5702.) NRO staff and volunteers collaborated over several months to make this possible, helping NRO achieve an important milestone of increasing our ability to service clients and engage more volunteers in our work.



Claire Syrett  
NRO Board President  
July 2014

In April NRO held two successful Bowl-a-Thon fundraising events in Eugene and Portland bringing together donors, volunteers and reproductive rights activists for fun-filled evenings for a great cause. We hope to keep building upon the momentum of this great event adding more teams next year. NRO volunteers are also busy holding house parties and other smaller fundraising events that both help increase NRO's ability to help women access vital services and bring new supporters to the organization.

We continue to work on meeting the goals set at our planning retreat through the work of the committees we formed that include both board and non-board member volunteers. We hope to have updates on our Grassroots Health Education program and more fundraising news in our next newsletter. Until then we are all rightly proud and excited about the direction NRO is headed and look forward to the accomplishments of the coming months.

## Support reproductive justice in your lifetime and beyond.

Designating Network for Reproductive Options as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy, retirement plan, or IRA is a great way to provide long-term support for NRO's mission. Planned giving is an important decision for any person. Contact an attorney or financial advisor for guidance since many of these options offer some tax deductions or other tax advantages.

## Like to Shop, Dine Out, Surf the Net?

Through the website Dailygood (formerly Goodsearch) you can support NRO and the cause of reproductive justice through simple everyday actions—whenever you search the web, dine out at your favorite restaurant, or shop, play games, or take surveys online.

Website: [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

## Host a House Party!

House parties are a great way to educate friends, recruit new supporters, generate action, and raise funds for NRO's work.

Invite your friends, family, and/or coworkers to come together to support reproductive justice.

If this is something you might like to explore, please contact NRO for more information and guidance on how to proceed.

Share this newsletter with a friend or request NRO send a copy to anyone you think would like to learn more about NRO.

Like Us on Facebook!  
<http://tinyurl.com/>

Stay Connected!  
Follow Us on Twitter!  
[@NROfundsAB](https://twitter.com/NROfundsAB)

Support NRO through monthly giving! The Aunt Flo Fund is a brand new way for donors to support the Network for Reproductive Options every month as we work to help all families afford abortion access.

Rather than giving one annual donation, Aunt Flo Fund members donate smaller amounts monthly to our Women In Need (WIN) fund.

### JOIN TODAY!!!

Go to [www.NROptions.org/donate-online](http://www.NROptions.org/donate-online) and choose monthly donations

Or call our office at 541-345-5702

*NRO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization*





# All\* Above All Campaign



## National Campaign to End Public Funding Bans Ramps Up!

We are fast approaching the one-year anniversary of the *All\* Above All Campaign*, which seeks to unite organizations and individuals who care about reproductive justice to build support for lifting the bans that deny abortion coverage to women throughout the United States. ([allaboveall.org](http://allaboveall.org))

Since the passage of the Hyde amendment in 1976, Congress has withheld federal funding for coverage of abortion services from women insured through the Medicaid program. Currently, nearly 1 in 7 women of reproductive age (15-44) is insured through this program, and this will only rise as the Affordable Care Act continues to be implemented. Restricting Medicaid coverage of abortion forces one in four women to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term. A woman who wants to get an abortion but is denied is three times more likely to fall into poverty than those who can get an abortion.

The vision of the *All\* Above All Campaign* is to see public insurance coverage restored so that every woman, however much she makes, can get affordable, safe abortion care when she needs it. This national campaign has grown quickly over the last year with now 52 organizational and state partners, including 12 abortion funds, like NRO.

In August, as part of its efforts to mobilize support for this vision at the grassroots level, the campaign will launch a National Bus Tour. **We are excited to announce that on August 19<sup>th</sup> the tour will make its fourth stop in Portland, Oregon!** Planning for this exciting event is now underway. We will be updating our supporters about opportunities for involvement as the schedule of activities is finalized.

### Stories from the Hotline

Woman is 19 and is 20 weeks pregnant. Fetus has Fetal Anomalies - Cystic Fibrosis and Turner Syndrome, fetus will not live. Doctor provided two options Abortion or Induced Labor and Delivery. She reported she is Catholic and is undecided and is also considering the financial hardship. Insurance will not cover unless her life is at risk. Cost \$2,800. The cost was covered through the collaboration with other funds and the clinic.

## Recent Court Decisions on Reproductive Freedoms in the US

In June, the US Supreme Court handed down two decisions which dealt serious blows to all women's rights to exercise their own reproductive choices. These decisions have the chilling effect of denying many women access to vital contraceptive supplies, while affirming the right of others to harass and intimidate women who seek to exercise their legally protected reproductive rights.

First of all in *McCullen v. Coakley*, the court unanimously struck down a Massachusetts law that created a 35 ft. buffer zone around abortion clinics, ensuring that women could get the reproductive health care they need without intimidation and invasions of their privacy. In handing down this decision, the Court ignored the long history of intimidation and violence that abortion opponents have used to try to prevent women from accessing abortion services as well as contraceptive and prenatal care.

Then came its 5-4 decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, which involved the Affordable Care Act's birth control mandate, a widely hailed and important step in ensuring that women are not discriminated against when they seek the health care they need. In this case, for-profit companies used the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to challenge the birth control requirement, arguing that their free exercise rights were violated by the rule. The purpose of RFRA, however, is to protect people, not corporations, from substantial and unjustifiable burdens on their religious practice. The Supreme Court's decision that RFRA allows these corporations to refuse to cover contraception permits private employers to in fact, substantially and unjustifiably burden the women of America. Allowing employers to decide which contraceptives, if any, its female employees should be able to use, both demeans women and puts their health at risk

Both of these decisions by the highest court in our land, show us that women's full personhood has not yet been realized as a matter of U.S. law, and that all of us who care about reproductive justice must continue to work to secure the rights of all women to exercise their reproductive healthcare rights and determine the course of their own lives.

## Gynotician

**gy·no·ti·cian** *n*: A politician who feels more qualified than women and their doctors to make women's health care decisions.



*Girl is 15 years old and 22 weeks pregnant. She is unable to tell her parents and insurance will not cover the procedure. Patient is able to receive some help from her partner's mother and with the assistance of a clinic discount and NRO, was able to have procedure: Cost \$1,950.*

Woman is 21, has two children and was just laid off, is in an abusive relationship and is trying to leave. Cost \$550. She has \$150. NRO and the clinic covered the balance.

*Woman was sexually assaulted and is currently in an Alcohol Treatment Facility. She is 18 weeks pregnant. Cost of procedure. \$1,250. NRO covered the insurance deductible.*



## 2014 Bowl-A-Thon Fundraising Events Great Success!!!



On Saturday, April 19th at the Hollywood Bowl in Portland and Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Southtowne Lanes in Eugene **over 80 reproductive health justice supporters came together** in total to celebrate their success in surpassing our goal to raise \$10,000 through the **Network for Reproductive Options' 2014 Bowl-a-Thon Fundraisers!**

In fact, after all the donations had been collected and the last pins knocked down, these events had **raised over \$12,000**. These much needed funds will allow NRO to provide funding for approximately 60 additional women seeking assistance in paying for their abortion procedures this year!

These events were the culmination of four months of work on the part of dozens of bowlers (and volunteer fundraisers) participating together on 12 different teams and using twitter, Facebook, email blasts, and good old fashioned in-person requests to solicit donations from their family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to help support NRO's Women In Need Fund. Over 100 individuals donated to support this effort. In addition twelve local businesses in the Eugene and Portland areas provided the donation of goods and services in the total amount of \$500 to NRO to give away to our fundraising volunteers as prize incentives. **Chocolates by Davey, Euphoria Chocolates, Food Fight! Grocery, Massage Therapist Kate Weck, New Cascadia Bakery, Ninkasi Brewery, Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health, Sweet Life Patisserie, Sweet Potato Pie, Tabor Bread, Voodoo Doughnuts, and Waxx On!**  
**THANK YOU!!!!**



ONE BIG FINAL THANK YOU to all of our team captains, bowlers, event donors, and on-site volunteers for making our Eugene and Portland events so successful! And our greatest appreciation to NRO Board members Katherine McGuinness and Penny O'Leary for acting as this year's event coordinators!



### News from the Hotline!

Lots of things have been happening. Sadly NRO had to say goodbye to two wonderful hotline advocates, Katrin and Carrie Ann. Both have moved out of state and will not be able to continue volunteering with the hotline. They logged many hours on the hotline and will be greatly missed. Thanks to both for their dedication to NRO.

The web application has been in use for nearly a year. It has increased better statistical gathering and made it easier for volunteers to gather the information and fund women immediately after completing a call. It is such a powerful, fantastic tool. Thanks again to Jonathan Arlook for all his wonderful work on building it and his continuing support for NRO.

*Mother called. Daughter is 14. It is her first sexual experience. The family just declared bankruptcy. She is 18 weeks pregnant. Cost is \$1,200. Family has \$200. NRO and other funds helped cover the difference. Clinic gave 50% discount.*

Since January, we have logged 175 calls with 125 funding requests for a total of \$26,675. The hotline has taken over 500 calls since January. A hotline advocate may need to make and return many call to reach the person requesting service.

*Young woman is LDS, age 17 and cannot tell her family she is sexually active, let alone that she needs an abortion. Her sister who had an abortion was shunned by the family, and she is worried about the same thing happening to her. Cost is \$525. She has \$230. NRO and the clinic covered the balance.*

Three new hotline advocates have joined the team. Welcome Katherine, Hannah and Aiden. We are so excited to have them. Katherine is also a board member and Spanish backup.



# NRO Needs You!

## Get Involved to Make A Difference!



NRO is actively seeking volunteers interested in helping us to staff tables at community events in the Eugene and Portland area over the summer. Current Information about upcoming events will be available on our website and our Facebook page over the summer.

We also have opportunities for interested reproductive justice advocates to help support our grassroots education, advocacy and fundraising efforts.

**Grassroots Health Education (GHE)**, a founding principle of NRO, was born from the closure of a Feminist Women's Health Center ([fwhc.org](http://fwhc.org)) in Eugene. The founders committed at the very beginning to continue to offer the Self Help Slide Show. Once upon a time that slide show was a cartridge with about 40 actual slides. A gift of funds allowed NRO to upgrade to a virtual version; and now, thanks to "the cloud", NRO can share this show with volunteer educators located throughout Oregon!

Why is the Slide Show so important to NRO? One reason is that we value empowering people through education. People can benefit by understanding the wide variety of human responses, anatomy, etc. We hope to challenge the assumption of "doctor knows best." Another reason is to continue the work of the self-help movement in releasing women's reproductive lives from "the experts",

This year we plan to continue to build our presenter team and grow the GHE committee, then modernize our slides and train educators in urban and rural communities.

**Reproductive Justice Advocacy** efforts include monitoring state agencies such as DHS and Cover Oregon to ensure women of Oregon receive access to the reproductive healthcare services they are entitled to under Oregon Law.

In addition, NRO is a partner in the national *All\* Above All Campaign*. This campaign works toward lifting any and all bans that deny abortion coverage. The vision of this campaign is to restore public insurance coverage on a national level so that every woman, however much she makes, can get affordable, safe abortion care when she needs it.

NRO is seeking advocates interested in working with us to support these efforts in your own Oregon communities. Activities include communications and in-district visits with members of our Oregon House delegation, and participation in other campaign events such as the upcoming *All\*In Bus Tour* (page 3).

Although Oregon continues to enjoy its status as the only state in this country with no unfair restrictions on a women's legal right to access abortion services, and particularly the continued access to public funding of abortion services through our Oregon Health Plan, we recognize that vigilance is required to maintain this vital access to reproductive options for all Oregon women. So NRO's ongoing advocacy efforts also involve monitoring legislative and ballot measure activity around these issues.

For more information about these and other current volunteer opportunities please call our office at [541.345.5702](tel:541.345.5702) or contact us at [office@NROptions.org](mailto:office@NROptions.org).

### NRO's Statement on Ending Oppression

As an organization committed to educating and empowering women to understand and control their reproduction, we at NRO wish to acknowledge our duty and responsibility to work toward ending the oppressions in our society that limit a women's right and access to reproductive freedom.

We believe that a woman's right to control her body is fundamental to realizing her equality and her potential as a human being. We also recognize that all forms of oppression have an impact on a women's ability to express herself sexually, make reproductive choices, and enjoy reproductive health throughout her life.

We are, therefore, committed to understanding the ways in which oppression limits the reproductive options of members of our community and to creating an organizational culture that acknowledges the impact of oppression on ourselves and our communities, appreciates and respects the experiences and cultures of others, and develops a climate of equality, empowerment and justice.

2013 Women In Need Fund			
State	# Served	Avg Age	Total Pledge
Oregon	72	26	\$17,425
Idaho	71	26	\$12,191
Washington	16	25	\$4,125
Arizona	1	36	\$200
Utah	1	33	\$300

The number of Oregon women served by NRO decreased due to the fact that Planned Parenthood of Columbia/Willamette received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 to pay for women's abortions. The donation was not renewed in 2014.



NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS

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*Empowering women & promoting reproductive justice by eliminating barriers to abortion access, providing opportunities for comprehensive, grassroots sexual & reproductive health care education, and supporting access to a full range of reproductive options for all women*

**Thank you for supporting reproductive justice!**



**Come visit us on-line!**  
**<http://www.nroptions.org>**



**Resources**—Links to information on sexual & reproductive health care and reproductive justice organizations

**News & Views**—What's happening locally & nationally in reproductive health and justice

**Get Involved**—Learn how you can make a difference

**Donate**—Help NRO assist Women In Need



NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS

**Your one-stop resource for Reproductive Justice**