

**Background Information on  
The Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy**

**A. Background information on Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy**

The Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy (Alliance) advocates and lobbies for legislation "...to ensure that Massachusetts youth have access to **comprehensive pregnancy-prevention services....**" Prevention services include **access to contraception and comprehensive health education programs in the schools.**

The Alliance has joined with the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM) and NARAL Pro-Choice of Massachusetts (NARAL Pro-Choice) as well many other organizations in its legislative efforts to **make emergency contraception available** and **eliminate funding for abstinence-only programs**, which it views as unsuccessful and even unhealthy.

Planned Parenthood and its state affiliates are the largest providers in the United States of abortions with over 260,000 abortion procedures conducted in 2005. NARAL Pro-Choice America and its Massachusetts affiliate are leading advocates of the pro-choice movement in the United States. NARAL Pro-Choice, when it first started, was called The National Association for the **Repeal of Abortion Laws**. This was subsequently shortened to NARAL.

The Alliance lists PPLM and NARAL Pro-Choice as seminar leaders in its 2007 Teen Pregnancy Institute being conducted at Holy Cross on October 24<sup>th</sup> as workshop leaders.

**B. Catholic organizations that are current members of Alliance:**

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston
- St. Mary's Women and Infant Center- member of Caritas Christi Health Care System

**C. The Alliance has supported Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice in its newsletters and workshops:**

1. The Alliance in its *Alliance Advocate* newsletter has listed Planned Parenthood programs:

2004: (Nothing listed after this issue for PPLM programs.)

*Sexual Health Education for At-Risk Youth: Strategies that Work!*  
Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

*Sexuality Education Certification Series*  
Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

2. Prior "Teen Pregnancy Institute" conferences the Alliance has conducted:

2006 Conference conducted on October 11, 2007 at Holy Cross College.

- Specific list of participants unavailable.

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3. “2007 Teen Pregnancy Institute” conference scheduled for October 24, 2007 at Holy Cross College.

- Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts is scheduled to conduct three (3) workshops (A7, A8, & C4).

- NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts is scheduled to conduct one (1) workshop (B3).

**D. Links to abortion:**

4. Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts offers abortion services including services at its health center in Worcester.

Available at: <http://plannedparenthood.org/ma/our-health-services.htm>  
<http://plannedparenthood.org/findCenterProcess.asp>

5. Planned Parenthood and its affiliates including PPLM performed over 264,000 abortion procedures in 2005.

Source: Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006, p. 4.

6. NARAL Pro-Choice stated mission is to “...guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions..., including ...legal and accessible abortion.”

Available at: <http://www.prochoicemass.org/about/faqs.shtml>

7. “Gain Access,” a NARAL Pro-Choice program “...focuses on **increasing the number of hospitals that provide abortion services**, increasing access to medical abortion (RU-486) and improving access to emergency contraception.”

Available at: <http://prochoicemass.org/about/faqs.shtml>

8. NARAL Pro-Choice states “We need your help in making abortion services affordable for low-income women! ... You can help by emailing the Executive Office of Health and Human Service[‘s]...asking them to increase the reimbursement rate by 10%!”

Available at: <http://www.prochoicemass.org/getinvolved/alerts/200707191.shtml>

**E. Links to Emergency Contraception:**

9. “...Massachusetts policymakers supported the right of all women, regardless of age, to have **access to EC (emergency contraception)** directly from pharmacies. The Alliance worked as part of the “Prevention First” Coalition with Mass NARAL and Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts to achieve this significant result.”

Source: Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy, ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006, page 4

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10. “Now it is easier to get emergency contraception (EC) at Planned Parenthood with EC over-the-counter and EC Quick Visits!”

Available at: <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ma/emergency-contraception.htm>

11. NARAL Pro-Choice sponsors a pledge form on its website which says “Spread the word about Emergency Contraception (EC)!...Make sure your sister, daughter, niece, or nephew knows about EC.”

In pledging, signers agree to tell at least five (5) friends about EC.

Available at:

[http://prochoiceaction.org/campaign/MA\\_pledge\\_EC\\_5\\_31\\_07?qp\\_source=web%5faffiliate%5fma](http://prochoiceaction.org/campaign/MA_pledge_EC_5_31_07?qp_source=web%5faffiliate%5fma)

### **F. Links to Comprehensive Sex and Abstinence Only Education:**

12. “Mission: The goal of the Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy is to promote effective, comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention strategies....

“Message: To prevent pregnancy, teens need:

- Support for their healthy choices, including abstinence and **condom and contraceptive use.**
- **Access to condoms and other contraception.**

Method: Become a voice for comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention in your community.”

Available at: <http://massteenpregnancy.org/advocacy/pregnancy.html>

13. “In 2002, the Alliance embarked on a bold effort to **counteract** recent trends towards federal **funding of abstinence-only-until-marriage**.... These programs have proven to be not only inadequate, but in fact detrimental to the health of sexually active youth and the majority of young people.”

Available at: <http://massteenpregnancy.org/about/who.html>

14. NARAL Pro-Choice opposes the use of federal abstinence-only funds in classroom-based programs and wants to reject future federal abstinence-only funding. It calls abstinence-only classroom programs dangerous.

Available at: <http://prochoicemass.org/issues/factsheets/200610021.shtml>

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**G. Advocacy coalitions in which the Alliance is a member:**

**15.** Membership (see below) of **Prevention First** and **CARE for Youth** coalitions in which the Alliance is a member. These coalitions advocate legislative passage of bills **supporting comprehensive health education in Massachusetts.**

Other Coalition members of “Prevention First” and “CARE for Youth”:

- Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
- Massachusetts Coalition for Choice
- Massachusetts Family Planning Association
- NARAL Pro Choice of Massachusetts
- Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

Available at: [http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/summary\\_0199-5389714\\_ITM](http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/summary_0199-5389714_ITM)  
<http://www.careforyouth.org>  
<http://www.careforyouthma.org/home/whoweare>