



# The Team Roe Times

Welcome The Team Roe Times. Our aim is to

- ◇ Create a sense of unity in the pro choice community
- ◇ Provide accurate and timely information regarding current and pending legislation
- ◇ Promote networking to share ideas, resources and projects
- ◇ Share news of communities and individuals across South Dakota
- ◇ Feature stories about organizations, individuals, websites and more
- ◇ Promote growth, excellence and integrity

## Women4Women 2012 Day- January 30

A month from now we will have kicked off the 2012 legislative session (sorry Carmen, I know you hate the constant reminders). One of my favorite parts of session is the South Dakota Advocacy Network for Women's lobby day, Women4Women day. Women4Women is an opportunity for our friends and supporters to gather in Pierre and present a united front to the legislature.

This year's lobby day will be held on **Monday January 30, 2012** at the

capitol, with an optional meeting on Sunday evening for members of the Advocacy Network.

The day will feature issue trainings on domestic violence, education, equal pay and reproductive rights from state and national experts. We will also have a rally, observe the floor of the legislature, and have a legislative cocktail reception at which attendees will have the opportunity to converse with some of their representatives.



SDANW Women4Women Day 2011

Registration is now open at [SDANW.net](http://SDANW.net)! Check the website often for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

~ Alisha Sedor

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### Religious Exemption for Birth Control Coverage

As many of you know, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently adopted a provision that that will cover birth control as a preventative health service under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (otherwise known as healthcare reform). This is very exciting news for American women as it means birth control will be available with no-copay to those with insurance coverage.

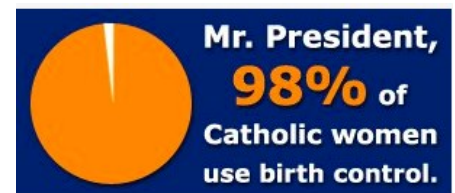
However, there is a possibility that the final version of the provision will include an exception for religious employers, such as a

Catholic hospital or university. This means that these institutions would not be required to provide birth control coverage at no-cost to their employees.

Women should have access to no-cost birth control regardless of who their employer is. In fact, [studies show](#) that Catholic women use contraception at the same rates as women of other religious affiliations and women who do not identify with a particular religion.

There is still time to [tell the administration that you think women should have access to birth control no matter where they work](#). Make sure to take action soon; the administration could announce their final decision at any time!

~Alisha Sedor



## World AIDS Day

Last month, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on the world to create the first “AIDS free generation.” “The goal of an AIDS-free generation is ambitious, but it is possible,” she said. “An AIDS-free generation would be one of the greatest gifts the United States could give to our collective future.”

The number of South Dakotans diagnosed with HIV and/or living with an AIDS diagnosis continues to increase annually, with the highest number yet in 2010 (cumulative total of 644.) It is imperative

that people get tested and know their HIV status so that they can benefit from the improved antiretroviral medications and preventative therapies that are now available. Yet many people still do not undergo testing until they are sick – at a point when they are less likely to benefit from treatment.

Here in South Dakota – and across the region – Planned Parenthood is working everyday to stop the spread of HIV by supporting parents as the primary sexuality educator of their children, ensuring families have access to health

care services, and engaging young people through education and leadership development opportunities.

Is an “AIDS-free generation” possible? Yes. But in order to make it happen we need to get people access to the testing and treatment they need. And we need to replace fear with facts, and misinformation with education. The health and well-being of all of us depends on it.

~Carmen Toft

Read the full article [here](#).



## #phonefail: Siri sends women seeking abortions to CPCs

“When asked ‘where can I get an abortion?’ Siri either has no answer or lists the closest CPC.”

Apple’s latest technological feat comes to us in the form of Siri, a personal-assistant application that can tell you a whole host of things, from what your schedule looks like for the day to the weather forecast for tomorrow, simply by pressing a button and asking the question. Needless to say, “she” is impressive.

However, as [Nancy Keenan recently voiced in a Huffington post piece](#), Siri has not been “giving women

accurate answers when they asked about finding birth control or obtaining abortion care.” Instead of providing information on the nearest comprehensive reproductive healthcare clinic, when asked “where can I get an abortion?” Siri either has no answer or lists the closest Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC).

Apple CEO Tim Cook has said that this glitch is unintentional and his staff at Apple will do their best to correct this since Siri is still in

Beta stages. It seems obvious then that the real problem is deceptive advertising by CPCs, whose main objective is often to talk women out of seeking the reproductive healthcare they may want or need.

CPCs try to trick women seeking abortion care, and it seems Siri has been duped by them too. We look forward to Apple’s solution to this problem, and will continue our work to educate the public about the dangers CPCs can pose to women.

~Alisha Sedor

## Senate Bypasses Shaheen Amendment

A few weeks ago, Senator Jean Shaheen (D-NH) took the bold move of introducing a measure that would repeal the law that prevents women from using their military insurance plan to cover abortion care following a sexual assault.

If a woman in the military seeks to abort a pregnancy resulting from

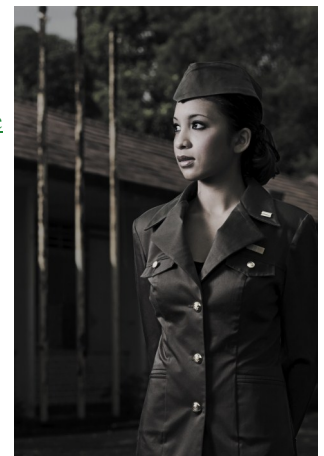
rape or incest, she must bear the cost of those abortion services herself. This goes much further than restrictions on insurance coverage of abortions for civilian women with government insurance or Medicaid.

It is unfair that our military women put their lives at risk, but do not have

the same rights as the women at home. [Unfortunately, the Shaheen Amendment was considered and discarded in the US Senate last week.](#)

Thank you to Senator Shaheen and her fellow senators that supported the amendment. We appreciate your efforts to support women in the military.

~Alisha Sedor



## Feminist Holiday Presents



As a proud feminist with 7 little girls in my extended family, I feel a tremendous responsibility to expose them to some serious girl power to coexist with the many, many princesses covering walls, bedspreads and binders. I hit the jackpot last year with President Obama's, ["Of Thee I Sing, A Letter to My Daughters"](#). In this beautiful book, President Obama looks at 13 famous Americans and tells the girls what traits of

theirs he sees in them. My cousin says that her daughters particularly enjoy the part about Martin Luther King.

My best gift for 2011 is [The Paper Bag Princess](#) by Robert Munsch. This delightful children's book has the princess rescuing the prince! And she does it without princess-appropriate attire. There's a great twist on the "happily ever after" too. Check out other [children's books with a feminist agenda](#).

While I love a good "book" theme, I adore these ["Girl Power" shoelaces](#). They are definitely on deck for the years to come. Finally, I have spent way too much time searching the interwebs for a set of posters I fell in love with last year. One featured a girl on a horse and it said, "I can rescue myself." Seriously, they were fantastic- if I manage to find them again, I'll post them on [plannedparenthodadvocate.org](#).

Happy Holidays from  
Carmen, Alisha, and Team Roe!  
~ Carmen Toft

### Letter: Affordable birth control shouldn't be politicized

The following [recently appeared in the Argus Leader](#) care of a NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota Board Member (Thanks Julia!):

The majority of Americans have heard of the federal health care law and the subsequent recommendation from the Institute of Medicine that contraception should be covered at no additional cost to women and their families.

What you may not have heard is that the Department of Health and Human Services accepted the recommendation

but is requesting public comments on an exception for some religious employers (hospitals, schools, social services organizations) to refuse to provide this coverage.

Birth control is a basic right that should be covered through insurances premiums without an additional co-pay like other preventative care. Women and their families deserve access to birth control regardless of where they are employed. No one would be forced to take or prescribe birth control, but it is common sense

that we all want to prevent unintended pregnancies.

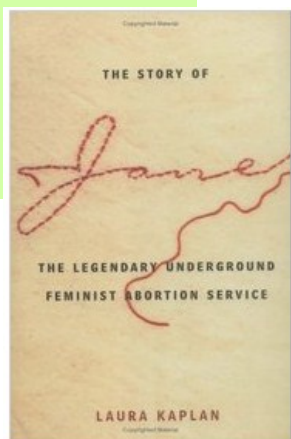
Affordable birth control will allow women who choose to use it to make decisions about their bodies with the advice from their doctors. Please take the time to voice your opinion on this public discussion so that your voice is heard over the lobbyists.

Basic preventative care like birth control shouldn't be politicized.

~Julia Tibbetts

**"Women and their families deserve access to birth control regardless of where they are employed."**

### Unofficial TTRT Book Club — *The Story of Jane: The Legendary Underground Abortion Service*



I recently picked up *Jane* at the behest of a friend, and probably should have done so ages ago (Thanks Kyle!). *Jane* chronicles the story of a group of women in Chicago who took it upon themselves to first refer women for abortion services and later become trained as providers in the

years before *Roe v. Wade*.

For me, this book spoke to why our work is so important; not only so that we never return to that place in history, but also how essential comprehensive reproductive healthcare is to women's equality and the feminist movement. Control over the decision of when

and how to have children is at the crux of ensuring equal treatment for women at home, in the workplace and in society. *Jane* was a fantastic reminder of this basic concept of modern feminism.

~ Alisha Sedor

## The Team Roe Times

A NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota/  
PPMNS Collaboration

### Upcoming Events:

Legislative Session Opens - 1/10/12  
Sioux Falls *Roe* Anniversary Event - 1/21/12  
39th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* - 1/22/12  
Women 4 Women Day - 1/30/12  
Pro-Choice, Pro-Chocolate - 2/11/12

\*Please contact [Carmen](#) or [Alisha](#) if you would like your event added to this list.



### Contact:

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### Choice Words

#### Terminology of the Choice Movement Defined

December's Choice Word: "RU 486"

Approved by the FDA in 2000, RU 486, also known as mifepristone or a medical abortion, is a safe, non-surgical way for women to terminate an unintended pregnancy. RU 486 works within the first 9 weeks of pregnancy. Though proven very safe, many anti-choice politicians are doing everything they can to restrict women's access to RU 486.

RU 486 is not the same as Emergency Contraception or "EC." EC works like birth control to prevent pregnancy and will not cause an abortion. RU 486 will safely terminate a pregnancy up to 9 weeks.

[For more information on RU 486 and laws regulating it, check out NARAL Pro-Choice America's page](#)

### We're on the web!

<http://www.prochoicesd.org> (New and improved!)

<http://www.SDplannedparenthoodadvocate.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/naralsd>  
<http://www.facebook.com/ppsdak>



[@NARALSD](#)  
[@ppSoDak](#)

## Get Ready for Roe

January 22, 2012 is the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision and although it doesn't always feel like it, abortion care is still legal and available in the United States and South Dakota. Our Sioux Falls *Roe* event is always one of my favorites. I consider it a time to get together with our supporters and commemorate this decision that we dedicate our time and resources to upholding. Even though the weather doesn't always cooperate in January, I think it's a good time to remember *Roe v. Wade* and how there will always be women and families who need the option of safe and legal abortion.

In the past, we have hosted the president of the USD Med Students for Choice chapter and held a panel discussion focusing on the legal and religious perspectives of the decision. Last year, we even had our own tea party. This year, our event is called *Roe on the Rocks* and will be a cocktail reception at Tre Lounge in Sioux Falls. Our speaker is a former Argus Leader reporter who reported extensively on the 2006 and 2008 abortion ban ballot measures. For more information or to RSVP, please email me at [ctoft@ppmns.org](mailto:ctoft@ppmns.org).

Please let us know if you're planning a *Roe* event in your community and we'll add it to our "upcoming events" section!



Alisha Sedor, Jen Rumpca, Carmen Toft, Sam Ellingson