

# Democratic Women's Information Network



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## Issues Newsletter April 4, 2009

Congratulations to the **Jacksonville Young Dems** for their attention-grabbing ad on page A-4 of Wednesday's Times-Union! Check out their YouTube video at <http://www.bidthelandfill.org/> and join them at the City Council Public Hearing on April 9 at 2:00 p.m. "Let the council know we want them to **Bid the Landfill!**"

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On April 13th, at 1:00 there will be a special meeting at the St. Johns River Water Management District office in Palatka about the Seminole County permit to withdraw millions of gallons of water a day from the river. At this meeting, the SJRWMD Governing Board will make the final decision on the permit. Attend this meeting and show your support! Transportation from Jacksonville is available from the **St. John's Riverkeeper**. Contact Leslie Goller at [lgoller@terrellhogan.com](mailto:lgoller@terrellhogan.com) for more information.

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Women rejoiced when President Obama signed the Lily Ledbetter Act as his first piece of legislation from Congress. But this was only a small gain in the fight for pay equity. **Equal Pay Day** on April 28th symbolizes the point in **2009** to which a woman must work to equal men's earnings for **2008**. This year for every \$1.00 a man earns, a woman earns 78 cents.

To recognize this day and call the attention of the community to this discrimination, the Women's Center of Jacksonville, the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, and Women's Digest are sponsoring a **luncheon**. Nancy Hogshead-Makar, nationally recognized authority on Title IX and champion of women's rights in sports will be the speaker.

The event will be held at the Deerwood campus of FCCJ on April 28th from 11:30 - 1:00 pm and the cost is just \$10.00. Contact Bobbie Nord at 396-9553 or [bobbienord@gmail.com](mailto:bobbienord@gmail.com) if you would like to join us at the DWIN table.

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You can still work to support the **Prevention First Act** (introduced by Representative Audrey Gibson) and **Healthy Teens Act**, and fight against the dangerous mandatory **ultrasound** bill. Please take the following actions:

Contact House Speaker Larry Cretul today by phone and urge him to NOT calendar HB 983 for a floor vote!

Call Speaker Cretul (R-22) at (850) 488-1450 and say: "I urge Speaker Cretul to not calendar HB 983 for a floor vote. During this economic crisis, the Florida legislature should be spending it's time on the budget, not on divisive abortion bills."

Call Senator Jim King at (850) 487-5030. Simply say: "Please oppose SB 1854, the mandatory ultrasound bill. We need to focus on preventing unintended pregnancies. Please support the Prevention First Act (SB 310) and Healthy Teens Act (SB 220)."

Call Representative Ronald Renuart at (850) 488-0001

Simply say: "Please oppose HB 983, the mandatory ultrasound bill. This bill ties the hands of doctors and does nothing to prevent unintended pregnancy or reduce the need for abortion."

For up-to-date information on bills on women's health, go to the **Planned Parenthood** website:

<http://www.floridaplannedparenthood.org/legislative-issues/legislative-issues>

Here's an editorial on the ultrasound bill from The **Orlando Sentinel**, March 31, 2009:

## **The state has no business forcing unwanted tests on pregnant women**

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to legislative debate over real issues, the ideologues are back, reviving an effort to require by law that women seeking an abortion get an ultrasound first.

It was an ugly proposal that went down in defeat just last year with the Senate deadlocked at 20-20. Now, the House Health Care Regulation Policy Committee has resuscitated a similar bill in a party-line vote, arguing that it's the right thing to do to meddle in a woman's medical decisions in the name of "information."

Bunk. Let's call this what it is: an overt attempt by pro-life forces to make it more difficult for women to get abortions.

Is the state going to start requiring that men get a colonoscopy after the age of 50, or women get mammograms after they hit 40? Those exams are proven to save lives. But it's not law because

it's none of government's business how citizens choose to get informed when making medical decisions. Abortion should be no different.

To make the ultrasound provision more palatable, the bill proposes that while women must take the exam, they don't have to review the "live images" as they move on the screen if they sign a written waiver. But the doctor would be required to provide information on fetal development.

Women who claim incest or rape must produce a restraining order to forgo the exam.

Abortion remains a lightning-rod issue, and even for those who choose to have one, the decision is painful and traumatic enough. To suggest women don't know what they're doing, and making them take, and pay for, an exam they didn't want to begin with, is insulting and overly intrusive.

We're particularly disappointed that so many Central Florida legislators' fingerprints are on this bill.

Florida has bigger issues to grapple with this year, like making commuter rail a reality. It would be best if the Legislature kept its eye on the ball, and its nose out of citizens' medical business.

[http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/orl-ultrasound-abortion-editorial-033109\\_0\\_7567978.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/orl-ultrasound-abortion-editorial-033109_0_7567978.story)