

PHILADELPHIA NOW ENDORSES

GOVERNOR
Joe Hoeffel

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Jonathan Saidel

U. S. CONGRESS
Joe Sestak

STATE SENATE
Leanna Washington (4th)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Pam DeLissio (194th)
Mark Cohen (202nd)
Anthony Ingargiola (195th)
Babette Josephs (182nd)
Vanessa Lowery Brown (190th)
Mike O'Brien (175th)
Cherelle Parker (200th)
Curtis Thomas (181st)

STATE COMMITTEE
Karen Bojar
(4th Senatorial District)

PRIMARY ELECTION

May 18, 2010

Paid for by
Philadelphia NOW PAC

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PHILADELPHIA NOW



MAY 2010

www.philanow.org



By Caryn Hunt

The National Organization for Women in Pennsylvania enthusiastically supports Joe Hoeffel for Governor. He's got experience. He's got a record on our issues. But most exciting, he's got a backbone. He's a progressive, feminist candidate and proud of it. He's also the smartest guy in the race with solid plans to grow Pennsylvania's economy, to keep money generated here in the state, and to create 21st century, family-sustaining jobs.

He recommends a sensible approach to the Marcellus Shale, including support for a moratorium to drilling in the Delaware River watershed so potential harms to our drinking water can be evaluated. He proposes local control over handgun laws, which would give urban areas the legal foundation they need to drive down homicides, while leaving rural gun issues alone. He is a staunch advocate for women's rights: equal pay for equal work, equal access to healthcare, and reproductive rights. He supports gay marriage.

Dan Onorato, by contrast, does not support marriage equality. Onorato is also anti-abortion. He has stated he will support the

Stand With Joe

status quo on abortion, but the status quo in Pennsylvania is harmful to women. His refusal to deal head-on with the reproductive issues so central to women's lives is a refusal seen at every level of government. It leads to chronic underfunding of access to family planning education, allows insurance companies to refuse to cover birth control, and has, by neglect, created broad negative consequences for maternity care. At the national level we saw that reproductive rights are vulnerable because they are not important enough to a majority of legislators to defend- they are viewed as 'chips' in the 'game'.

Meanwhile women suffer. It's this attitude that creates the conditions for back alley operations and the forcing to term of unwanted pregnancies: it begets misery. Onorato is the Party-anointed frontrunner, which begs the question, how serious can the Democratic Party be about women's issues? Onorato's attitude, reflective of the Party stance, is to put reproductive rights on the backburner. Again.

Extremists nationwide come up with novel assaults on women's reproductive rights every day. Recently

Oklahoma's state legislature passed a law holding doctors harmless if they conceal information from women about their baby's birth defect; apparently they would do this to prevent abortions. Oklahoma and other states are pushing reproductive rights as far backwards as they can. They know they have a reactionary Supreme Court just waiting for the right case. Now more than ever is the time to move reproductive rights to the front burner.

The basis of a woman's freedom is her ability to decide for herself when she will become a parent. Joe Hoeffel understands that. He also happens to be good on the economy, labor, government reform, and the environment. All along he has been direct and clear about his plans for Pennsylvania, about where he stands on the issues. All along Joe Hoeffel has stood right up and been a champion for women's rights, for worker's rights, for LGBT rights. He's the total package.

But the ultimate decision will be made by voters on May 18th. With Joe a close second in polls, your vote is crucial. Now it's time for us to stand up with Joe Hoeffel. ■

May 7

EVENT SPONSORS

- AFSCME District Council 47
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- Julie Welker
- WOMEN'S WAY

Honoring Local Women Leaders

This year, Philadelphia NOW held its annual spring fundraiser on May 7 at the Philadelphia Ethical Society and celebrated three women who have helped create social change and build community in Philadelphia. Our Community Builder Awards went to:

- **Phoebe Coles** executive director, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful;
- **Jane Golden** executive director, the Mural Arts Program; and
- **Lily Yeh** founder, Village of



L-R— Phoebe Coles, Jane Golden, State Rep. Kathy Manderino, Lily Yeh and Karen Bojar.

the Arts and Humanities, and Barefoot Artists.

SPECIAL HONOREES

Philadelphia NOW also recognized two women who have been steadfast in advancing women's issues:

- **Karen Bojar** for her able leadership as Philadelphia NOW President (2001-09) and for

her outstanding contributions to the feminist community; and

- **State Rep. Kathy Manderino** for nearly two decades of service to the people of Pennsylvania and for her outstanding contributions to the feminist community.

SPECIAL THANKS to our sponsors who support chapter activities, including Election Day efforts, and help Philadelphia NOW sustain its programs. To learn more about Philadelphia NOW, visit www.philanow.org or call 215.496.1294. ■

—Save The Date—

Thursday, June 3 • 6-8 p.m. • PHILADELPHIA NOW SPRING/SUMMER INTERACT

Tavern on Broad Street, 200 South Broad Street, Philadelphia

Join us for more feminist conversation and interaction in a casual setting

DATES OF PHILADELPHIA NOW MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday, June 14 • 5:30-7 p.m.

Monday, September 13 • 5:30-7 p.m.

1606 Walnut Street, Third Floor, Philadelphia

Join us at our monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month (except July and August)

Thursday, September 16 • 6-8 p.m. • PHILADELPHIA NOW FALL INTERACT

Tavern on Broad Street, 200 South Broad Street, Philadelphia

Healthy Families, Healthy Workplaces

By Kathy Black

Did you know that four of Pennsylvania's workers earn no paid sick time? Did you know that 75% of U.S. food service and hotel workers lack earned sick time?

Did you know that 40% of workers contract the flu from their colleagues at work? Or that half of all stomach flu infections come from sick food service workers?

These are just a few of the many compelling reasons we need to support legislation that would reduce these numbers and protect workers, families, and the general public.

In March — a coalition of local groups working on legislation at the federal, state and City of Philadelphia level that would

require employers to provide paid sick leave to employees — held a forum at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

A panel comprised of organizational representatives, a physician, an employer of child care workers, and a worker with a personal story, all provided perspective on why providing paid sick leave is not only the right thing to do, but is also good for business and for public health.

Others spoke out from the audience about coming to work sick in a restaurant, being disciplined for using earned time while suffering with swine flu, and a Mom who had to choose between

taking a sick child to day care or staying home and risk losing her job.

Jane Von Bergen of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* wrote a comprehensive story, and it was also reported on KYW and WHYI.

That was the kick-off event. Now the real work begins.

Please contact your State Representative and urge her or him to cosponsor and support HB 1830, *The Healthy Families, Healthy Workplaces Act*.

If you live in Philadelphia, please contact your City Councilperson, and ask her or him to ensure all workers have access to earned sick time by cosponsoring Bill

No. 080474, *Promoting Healthy Families and Workplaces*. And please pick one at-large Councilperson and ask for her or his support as well. Go to www.phila.gov/citycouncil to learn who is your Council representative. NOW intends to stay active in this coalition and will keep you posted as the bills work their way through the legislation process. ■

For more information, go to:

www.pathwayspa.org or earnedsicktime.blogspot.com

You can also follow the campaign on Twitter @EarnedSickTime

The Financial Crisis

By Louise Francis

Recently, I published a paper on the financial crisis entitled *Data and Disaster: The Role of Data in the Financial Crisis* (visit www.casact.org/pubs/forum/10spforum).

The paper shows that with the data available at the time of the real estate bubble (much of it public and free), the problems with mortgages could have been predicted and therefore avoided, along with the crisis they caused. It also shows that a few simple statistical tests could have been used to prove that Madoff's returns were phony, sparing many innocent investors the loss of their life savings.

The paper points to the roles of both incompetence and fraud in the Madoff Ponzi scheme, and the subprime bubble.



The subprime debacle is of interest to NOW members and not only because members are on the hook as taxpayers for bailing out the large banks that caused the crisis and because members are affected by the economic fallout of the crisis.

A number of organiza-

tions have pointed out that women and minorities were targeted for subprime loans that were clearly predatory and abusive. For instance the October 22, 2007 *Boston Globe* mentions that women were overrepresented among subprime borrowers and received less favorable terms (i.e., were put into subprime loans when they qualified for prime).

The article also indicates that elderly women were targeted for predatory refinancing loans. Note that a number of years ago when Philadelphia passed an anti-predatory lending law to bar such abusive practices, the state legislature overturned it.

As our legislators meet to pass reform legislation (this author hopes that they agree

with her that too big to fail is too big to exist), it is important that they hear from us. Otherwise *you know who* will lavish enough bribes (Oops! campaign contributions), using the bailout tax dollars you and I supplied, on our legislators to make sure real reform does not happen. ■

TAKE A SURVEY

I am currently working on a paper on the role of fraud in the financial crisis and would appreciate it if you would take this short survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZC6F53B



PHILADELPHIA NOW

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

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Join us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com (*National
Organization for Women Philadelphia*)

LABOR DONATED

THE PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN is committed to protecting the rights of women and families; endorsing pro-choice, feminist candidates at the local level; and supporting feminist issues of particular relevance to Philadelphians, including:

- Finding remedies to health access inequities for women and children;
- Bringing an end to domestic abuse and violence against women and teenage girls;
- Ending the shackling of pregnant prisoners;
- Combating racism wherever it is encountered; and
- Fighting for equal rights for all without regard to sexual orientation.

**ARE YOU AN
AT-LARGE NOW
MEMBER?**

Won't you consider changing your affiliation to the Philadelphia Chapter?

**To learn more, e-mail
caryn.hunt@gmail.com**

Breaking the Chains that Shackle

By Dee Johnson

I imagine being in labor and losing your balance as you step up into the ambulance transporting you to the hospital.

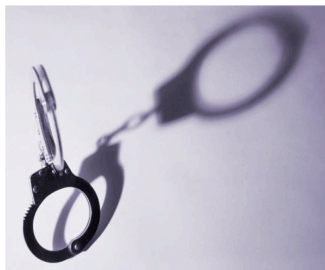
Now imagine being handcuffed, unable to reach out to steady yourself.

That's the reality for incarcerated pregnant women.

Today, 43 states — including Pennsylvania — and the nation's capital have no legislation protecting pregnant women in prison from being shackled.

Besides preventing pregnant women from being unable to break a fall, shackling is cruel and inhumane. It presents serious health risks to a mother and her unborn child.

It hampers a woman's movement from alleviating the pain of her contractions, increases the stress on her body, and decreases the



flow of oxygen to the baby.

And for many women who have been shackled, the experience has scarred them emotionally and physically for life.

Fortunately, the issue is steadily gaining momentum. Up until 2008, only Illinois, California and Vermont, and

the Federal Bureau of Prisons had banned the practice.

Last year, three other states — New Mexico, New York, and Texas — outlawed shackling. And just this year, the state of Washington joined those ranks.

Perhaps Pennsylvania will be next.

Last September, State Senator Daylin Leach (*D-Montgomery County*) introduced Senate Bill 1074 — *the Healthy Birth of Incarcerated Women Act*.

In March, the Senate unanimously approved the measure.

Now, it must pass the House.

"This is common sense legislation that clears up an issue that should have been standardized years ago,"

Sen. Leach said. "I am hopeful that my colleagues in the House of Representatives will agree and will send this bill to the governor's desk quickly."

Philadelphia NOW has been instrumental in the development of this bill and has worked diligently toward its passage with the Working Group to Enhance Services for Incarcerated Women, a project of The Pennsylvania Prison Society — a coalition of community service organizations and concerned citizens advocating on behalf of women in prison. ■

**HELP BREAK THE CHAINS
THAT SHACKLE!**

**Contact your State
Representative to express
your support for SB 1074 —
the Healthy Birth of
Incarcerated Women Act!**