

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Planned Parenthood Illinois Action Celebrates 39<sup>th</sup> Roe v. Wade Anniversary**  
*Highlights Urgency to Elect Pro-Woman, Pro-Choice Legislators in 2012 Election*

Chicago, IL – Planned Parenthood Illinois Action (PPIA) celebrated the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, tonight at Carnivale Restaurant in Chicago.

More than 400 women’s health supporters attended the event including Bill Marovitz, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and the night’s honorees: Senator Heather A. Steans (IL-7) and Marcie Love, founder of Personal PAC and longtime reproductive rights activist in Chicago.

Though a celebration of 39 years of choice, the event recognized the urgency to protect women’s health care today. In 2011, 1,000 bills aimed at limiting access to women’s health care were introduced at the state level across the nation. Seven of those bills were introduced in Illinois. Last Spring, legislators also went as far as nearly shutting down the federal government due to disputes over Planned Parenthood funding.

“Women’s health care is under unprecedented attack,” said Carole Brite, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, “Extremist legislators have made it their mission to limit access to essential women’s health care. It is more critical than ever for us work together to elect pro-woman, pro-choice legislators who will stand up for women.”

PPIA recognized State Senator Heather A. Steans (IL-7), with the Richard J. Phelan Profile in Courage Award for standing up for reproductive health care by supporting a bill that would enforce age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive sex education in Illinois public schools.

Marcie Love, who in 1978 founded Personal PAC, a bipartisan Political Action Committee (PAC) dedicated to electing pro-choice candidates to state and local office in Illinois, was recognized with the Dr. Marvin Rosner Award for Lifetime Achievement for her lifelong commitment to protecting reproductive rights. Marcie has been a reproductive rights activist since joining the Planned Parenthood Chicago Area Board in 1966.

All benefits supported Planned Parenthood Illinois Action (PPIA), an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit organization formed as the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL).

PPIA engages in educational and electoral activity, including public education campaigns, grassroots organizing, and legislative advocacy, on behalf of policies that protect the reproductive health and rights of women, teens, and families.

The Planned Parenthood Illinois Action Political Action Committee (PAC) is a nonpartisan political action committee committed to supporting pro-choice, pro-family planning candidates for office. To learn more about PPIA visit [www.ppiaction.org](http://www.ppiaction.org).

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