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Member Organization Update: NAPW
Nationwide Advocacy Leads to Victories for NAPW
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The National Advocates for Pregnant Women are celebrating important victories that protect and empower pregnant women around the country. In Idaho, the Senate passed a bill that would allow felony arrests of women who continued their pregnancies to term in spite of a drug problem. NAPW provided extensive support to the Idaho Women's Network, providing them with facts, figures, expert opinions and more, to challenge the misinformation at the heart of this bill. NAPW also worked with the Drug Policy Alliance to help the board president of the Women's Network place an op-ed in the state's leading newspaper. The Idaho Women's Network stopped the bill in its tracks. To read the op-ed go to:
<http://www.idahoptv.org/idreports/showEditorial.cfm?StoryID=20524>

In Texas, lawmakers redefined the term "individual" to mean "a human being who is alive, including an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth." As a result of this law, two pregnant women with drug problems were convicted as drug dealers to the unborn. Both women lived more than 100 miles from any treatment program designed to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting women. NAPW supported their defense lawyers and opposed this destructive interpretation of the law in a friend of the court brief filed on behalf of more than 20 leading state and national public health, child welfare, and drug treatment organizations and experts. In a 3-0 unanimous decision, the Seventh Court of Appeals of Texas reversed the convictions. Read: *Tex. Court Overturns Convictions Under 'Fetal Rights' Law* at: <http://newstandardnews.net/content/index.cfm/items/3024>

Demonstrating our ability to educate at both the national and local level, NAPW worked with Dr. Howard Minkoff to reach experts in the field of medicine and bioethics. We are proud to report that THE HASTINGS CENTER REPORT, a prominent journal that promotes "thoughtful, balanced reflection on the ethical and social issues of medicine and medical science," published a commentary by Dr. Howard Minkoff, and NAPW's executive director, Lynn Paltrow. The commentary, entitled, "The Rights of 'Unborn Children' and the Value of Pregnant Women," discusses how "Mothers are beatified in words and vilified in deeds." To read the article, go to:
http://advocatesforpregnantwomen.org/whats_new/hastings_center_report_publishes_article_by_dr_howard_minkoff_and_napw_executive_director.php

This is an excerpt from a report submitted by NAPW. In order to read the entire report, please visit www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org