Saying the “A Word”: Abortion Advocacy and Access in Louisiana

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The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose.

Presenter Disclosures
In partnership with the National Network of Abortion Funds, the New Orleans Abortion Fund was established in 2012 as a community-based 501(c)(3) organization rooted in social justice, with the purpose of challenging socioeconomic inequalities by providing financial help to women who cannot afford the full cost of an abortion.

We affirm a woman's right to control her body and her destiny, and work to ensure that all people have access to quality medical care, regardless of their economic situation.

Working with local medical providers, we provide compassionate and empowering assistance to women seeking abortions who are unable to fully fund their abortion, and distribute pledges as available.
NNAF Member Funds in US
Getting an Abortion in LA

- 24-hour waiting period
- Mandatory counseling & ultrasound
- 20-week gestational limit
- Parental consent or judicial bypass
- No public funding
- 5 clinics statewide
STIGMA!
• 195 clients
• Average pledge: $65.20
• Pledge range: $20-200
Who Do We Serve?
Who Do We Serve?

- **Age**
  - Range: 15-43
  - Mean: 26.2

- **Children**
  - 68.6% mothers
  - Of those with children, mean number is 2.05
Who Do We Serve?

- 54.19% are employed
- 44.3% are students
- 73.11% are in school and/or employed
Who Do We Serve?

Educational Level

- In middle school
- In high school
- Not a HS grad
- HS grad/GED
- In college
- Some college
- College grad
- Graduate school

n = 165
Who Do We Serve?

- Not religious: 22%
- Other Christian: 3%
- Christian (non-denominational): 20%
- Catholic: 13%
- Baptist: 41%
- Buddhist: 1%

n = 157
Who Do We Serve?

- African American/ Black: 74%
- Native American: 2%
- White: 21%
- Asian/ Pacific Islander: 1%
- Biracial: 1%
- Hispanic/ Latina: 1%

n = 166
• Laying the Foundations
• Regulations and Legislation
• Next Steps
• Coalitions
• Connection to other issues
• Client engagement
• Department of Health and Hospitals “emergency regulations”
  ◦ November 2013-February 2014
VICTORY!
2014 Legislative Session

- HB 305
- HB 1262
- HB 1274
- HB 388
Next Steps ...
Questions?