HEALTH ACCESS & PRIVACY ALLIANCE

July 12, 2007

Dear Prospective Member,

Since 1989, the Health Access & Privacy Alliance has advocated that reproductive choice in Indiana must be maintained and strengthened. On behalf of our member organizations, I invite your organization to join us. Together, we can ensure that the voice for women's health and privacy remains strong in Indiana.

We all know preventing unintended pregnancies is the best way to reduce the number of abortions, yet there are legislators who want to deny women and men the ability to plan their reproductive futures. In the 2007 General Assembly, several Indiana legislators intensely opposed our pro-active, common-sense campaign to protect access to birth control despite overwhelming public support! Every year, legislators author bills that seriously threaten access to reproductive health care services and jeopardize Hoosiers' rights to privacy and religious freedom. And every year, HAPA and its member organizations work to thwart those attempts. During this past legislative session we worked to successfully defeat legislation that would have:

- allowed pharmacists to refuse to dispense lawfully prescribed birth control, even if it was prescribed to treat a medical condition unrelated to contraception;
- based a legal definition of "when life begins" on a single religious perspective, usurping the authority of clergy and physicians, and potentially making several commonly used birth control devices illegal;
- required doctors to deliver to patients, prior to an abortion, controversial and inflammatory information dictated by legislators; and
- closed abortion facilities through onerous building regulations and additional physician requirements and licensing fees unrelated to patient safety and care.

Each member organization may appoint two representatives to participate (in person or via conference call) in regularly scheduled meetings where we carefully track proposed legislation and policy. We achieve a powerful and effective voice by working together, keeping our members informed, educating Indiana lawmakers, and sponsoring community events. Though we all agree that reproductive health and privacy in Indiana must be maintained, each member organization decides the extent of its advocacy. Member organizations are free to act independently when no Alliance position has been taken.

Officers of the Health Access & Privacy Alliance would be happy to speak to your organization about the specifics of our activities. In preparation for community outreach events we are planning for the fall of 2007, each organization's HAPA representatives will be invited to participate in a:

- presentation from *Get Real, Indiana*! on the shocking state of sex education in Indiana,
- training session on media and messaging,
- tour of a health center which performs abortions, and
- forum on how to continue to grow our organizations.

Enclosed is a membership form and pamphlet about our organization. Dues are only $25 per year per member organization, a small price to pay to ensure women's health and privacy. If you have questions, please contact Chair Robyn Pauker at (317) 496-7041 or Vice-Chair Jen Jorczak at (317) 637-4362. We thank you for considering our invitation to join us in our advocacy for the women and men of Indiana.

Sincerely,

Robyn Pauker
Health Access & Privacy Alliance Chair