

# Milwaukee Women Speak-Out for Health Reform

**July 22, 2009**

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts  
929 North Water Street, Milwaukee



**RAISING  
WOMEN'S  
VOICES**

for the health  
care we need



# 7 Reasons Why Health Care Reform is a Women's Health Issue:

**1.** Women are more likely than men to need medical services.

**2.** Women are less able than men to afford medical services and supplies.

**3.** Women are less likely than men to be offered employment-based health insurance. That is partly because women are more likely than men to work at part-time jobs.

**4.** Many women are unable to work at jobs that provide health insurance because of the time they spend providing unpaid care to sick, disabled, very young, and very old family members.

**5.** Women pay 68% more in out-of-pocket health care costs than men, in part because of reproductive health-related supplies and services.

**6.** Women are vulnerable to losing health care coverage because of changes in marital status.

**7.** Latinas, immigrant women, young women, rural women and women with disabilities face particularly severe obstacles to obtaining medical care.

**Interested in sharing your story?**

Contact the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health at (866) 399-9294 or [info@wiawh.org](mailto:info@wiawh.org)



# What's at Stake?

Women have much at stake in the debates over health care reform at the local, state, and national levels. The current American health care system has consistently failed to provide access to needed care for many girls and women. It has also created tremendous challenges for the women who coordinate health care for our families.

## **Many Wisconsin women unfortunately have:**

- » not been able to afford health insurance coverage;
- » not been able to afford to use health insurance coverage because of expensive co-pays or deductibles;
- » found that health insurance coverage will not pay for needed services, such as birth control, or for the type of health provider you want to use, such as a midwife;
- » lost health insurance because of a divorce;
- » had difficulty understanding the rules of managed care plans or choosing which plan;
- » been frustrated that doctors at the local clinic don't speak your language or understand your family's culture.

## **Raising Wisconsin Women's Voices is working to:**

- » Engage women from diverse constituencies in identifying their health needs and those of their families and articulating a vision of a health care system that meets these needs.
- » Place priority on engaging women from communities that are marginalized in health policy discussions and that face special obstacles in obtaining health care, such as discrimination or language, cultural or physical barriers.
- » Articulate a policy framework for quality, affordable health care that meets the needs of women and our families.
- » Create partnerships between women's health advocates and consumer health advocacy organizations to strengthen the understanding of each other's perspectives on health care.
- » Keep partners informed about health care reform issues, relevant legislation and policies.
- » Inform and educate policy makers about women's perspectives on health care reform.

# Event Schedule

- 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.** Registration, Refreshments and Tabling
- 6:00 – 6:05 p.m.** Co-host Welcome and Introduction  
*Sara Finger & Byllye Avery*
- 6:05 – 6:10 p.m.** Emcee Welcome and Introduction  
*State Representatives Sandy Pasch & Jon Richards*
- 6:10 – 6:15 p.m.** Video message from Congresswoman Gwen Moore
- 6:15 – 6:25 p.m.** Moderator Welcome and Introduction  
*Vivian King*
- 6:25 – 8:05 p.m.** Speak-Out Opportunity  
*An opportunity for women and health providers to tell stories about the experiences they have had with the health system (3–5 min each). Members of our panel will identify health reform issues illustrated by each of the personal stories.*
- 8:05 – 8:15 p.m.** Reflections from Panelists, Moderator and Emcee
- 8:15 – 8:30 p.m.** Tabling, Informal Networking, Refreshments

## Speak-Out Planning Committee

- » Barbara Beckert, Disability Rights Wisconsin
- » Debra Fields, Sojourner Family Peace Center
- » Sara Finger, Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health
- » Johanna Hatch, Wisconsin Women’s Network
- » Liz Klainot, Peace Action Center
- » Alie Kriofske, Independence First
- » Sarah Noble, Reproductive Justice Collective
- » Amy Olejniczak, Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health
- » Jennifer Olenchek, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin
- » Carmen Pitre, Task Force on Family Violence
- » Brian Rothgery, Citizen Action of Wisconsin
- » Amy Stear, 9 to 5
- » Marilyn Thaney, Congresswoman Gwen Moore’s Office
- » Jennifer Winter, Managed Health Services
- » Virginia Zerpa-Uriona, Latino Health Council & Center for Urban Population Health

## Co-hosts



**Sara Finger, Director  
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health**

Since June of 2004, Sara has been leading the effort to develop a new organizational coalition to unite, coordinate and amplify the voices of women's health supporters in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health is dedicated to broadening the base of awareness and support for reproductive health as a critical component of women's health in Wisconsin. Prior to assuming this role, Sara was the Northeast Director of Membership and Professional Relations for the Wisconsin Medical Society. She received her undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.



**Byllye Y. Avery, Founder  
Avery Institute for Social Change  
Black Women's Health Imperative**

Byllye Y. Avery, founder of The Avery Institute for Social Change and the Black Women's Health Imperative, the new name of the National Black Women's Health Project, has been a health care activist for over 25 years focusing on women's needs. The Black Women's Health Imperative has served as a non-profit organization committed to defining, promoting and maintaining the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of Black women. The Avery Institute for Social Change has focused its work on health care reform. Prior to her entry into the health care arena, Avery taught special education to emotionally disturbed students and consulted on learning disabilities in public schools and universities. Avery also co-founded both the Gainesville Women's Health Center and Birthplace, an alternative birthing center, in Gainesville, Fla. A dreamer, visionary and grassroots realist, Avery has combined activism and social responsibility to develop a national forum for the exploration of the health issues of Black women. She continues to gather, document and speak on Black women's health experiences in America, rallying support for Black women.

# Emcee



## **State Representative Sandy Pasch Registered Nurse and Legislator**

A Milwaukee native and resident of Whitefish Bay since 1986, Sandy Pasch currently represents Wisconsin's 22nd Assembly district, which includes Shorewood, Whitefish Bay, Fox Point, Glendale, River Hills, and parts of Milwaukee. She holds an undergraduate degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and master degrees both in nursing from the University of Rochester and bioethics from the Medical College of Wisconsin. She has been a practicing nurse since 1976 and has served for 15 years as Assistant Professor of Nursing at Columbia College of Nursing. She also served four terms as president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Greater Milwaukee. Currently in Assembly, Sandy is the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Public Health, and she also serves on the Committees on Health and Healthcare Reform; Criminal Justice; Corrections and the Courts; and Housing.

# Moderator



## **Vivian King, Director of Public Affairs Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc Former Co-anchor at WTMJ-TV**

Vivian King is currently the Director of Public Affairs for Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc. where she is responsible for all media and community relations. King moved into the position after 18 years as a broadcast journalist, 10 ½ of which she spent at WTMJ-TV, Milwaukee's own NBC affiliate. Hired initially as an education reporter, she was later named co-anchor of the station's midday newscasts. She also contributed to the station's morning show and created and produced her own lifestyle segment, called "Viv's View." King's journalistic skills have been recognized with numerous awards, including three from the National Association of Black Journalists and two from the Associated Press. She is a member of the Sojourner Family Peace Center board, the Milwaukee Urban League board and the current president of the Milwaukee chapter of the Black Public Relations Society.

# Panelists



## **Shirin Cabraal, Managing Attorney Disability Rights Wisconsin**

Shirin Cabraal is a Managing Attorney at Disability Rights Wisconsin, the protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities in Wisconsin. Shirin was previously a Staff Attorney at Legal Action of Wisconsin for 20 years. She received a law degree from the University of Sri Lanka and taught on the faculty for two years before coming to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship for graduate studies. She received a Masters degree and a Law degree from the University of Wisconsin—Madison Law School. Shirin has been a health advocate for 25 years and specializes in protecting the interests of people with disabilities in institutions and ensuring that those who choose to live in the community have all of the services and benefits they need. She is a member of several state, county and city committees dealing with disability rights.



## **Sarah D. Noble, Managing Director Reproductive Justice Collective**

Sarah, a Milwaukee native, has been active in community and youth development work for many years. Her past work includes acting as the Youth and Family Director for YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee/Holton Branch, Director of the home-based school readiness program for young parents (HIPPPY) at COA Youth and Family Center, Coordinator of Youth Advocacy/Organizing (Voices of Youth) for the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, and Community Organizer for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin/Public Affairs. Currently, she is the Managing Director of the Reproductive Justice Collective, focusing on reproductive justice and other justice issues disproportionately affecting the communities of color. As an independent consultant and trainer she consults with organizations serving youth and in particular girls and women of color. She formerly served on the board of the Latino Community Center and is currently board president for Urban Underground. She was named Youth Worker of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals and received the YWCA's Empowering Women Award.



**Kris Peterka, RN, BSN, Community Health Liaison  
Riverwest Health Initiative**

Kris Peterka, RN, BSN, has been working as a nurse in the Milwaukee area for the past 15 years. She is currently enjoying her position as the Community Health Liaison for the Riverwest Neighborhood.



**Virginia Zerpa-Uriona, Outreach Specialist  
of Community-based Research, University of  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Mrs. Zerpa-Uriona is responsible for coordinating and implementing community-based research projects, community-based interventions, evaluations and dissemination of findings with primary focus on Latino health in Milwaukee. Virginia is also the Service Learning Coordinator. She received her Master of Public Health from Indiana University School of Public Health, her focus of study and work includes the prevention of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections as well as childhood lead poisoning and childhood obesity. She is a native of Venezuela and has resided in the United States since 1981.



**Thank you to those who made  
this Speak-Out possible!**

**Host**

**Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health**

P.O. Box 1726  
Madison, WI 53701  
(608) 251-0139  
[www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org)



# Premiere Sponsors

## \$250 Level

### Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin

302 N. Jackson St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 271-8045  
www.ppawi.org



### Managed Health Services

(888) 713-6180  
www.mhswi.com



## \$100 Level

### Community Advocates

4906 W. Fond du Lac Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53216  
(414) 449-4777  
www.communityadvocates.net



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

### Disability Rights Wisconsin

6737 W. Washington St., Suite 3230  
Milwaukee, WI 53214  
(414) 773-4646  
www.disabilityrightswi.org



### Reproductive Justice Collective

316 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 215  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202  
(414) 431-4688



**Reproductive Justice Collective**  
*A Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective*

### Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation

2503 Todd Drive  
Madison, WI 53713  
(608) 251-1675  
www.wwhf.org



### YWCA of Greater Milwaukee

1915 N. Martin Luther King Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 374-1800  
www.ywcamilw.org

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**  
ywca

# Additional Sponsors

## \$25 Level

### 9 to 5

207 E. Buffalo St., #211  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 274-0925  
[www.9to5.org](http://www.9to5.org)

### Citizen Action of Wisconsin

221 S. Second St., Suite 400  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 476-4501  
[www.citizenactionwi.org](http://www.citizenactionwi.org)

### Freedom Now Collaborative

[www.freedomnowcollaborative.org](http://www.freedomnowcollaborative.org)

### Health Care for America Now

1825 K Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 454-6200  
[www.healthcareforamericanow.org](http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org)

### Independence First

540 South 1st Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 291-7520  
[www.independencefirst.org](http://www.independencefirst.org)

### Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper Michigan

647 W. Virginia St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 671-5917  
[www.lsswis.org](http://www.lsswis.org)

### National Council of Jewish Women

5464 N. Port Washington Rd, C, #230  
Milwaukee, WI 53217  
(414) 379-7878  
[www.ncjwmilwaukee.org](http://www.ncjwmilwaukee.org)

### Peace Action Wisconsin

1001 E. Keefe Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 964-5158  
[www.peaceactionwi.org](http://www.peaceactionwi.org)

### Sojourner Family Peace Center

1400 North 6th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 276-1911  
[www.tffv.org](http://www.tffv.org)

### Urban Underground

4850 W. Fond du Lac Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53216  
(414) 444-8726  
[www.urbanunderground.org](http://www.urbanunderground.org)

### Westside Healthcare Association, Inc.

3522 W. Lisbon Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(414) 935-8000  
[www.wha-milw.org](http://www.wha-milw.org)

### Wisconsin Council on Children & Families

555 W. Washington Ave Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 284-0580  
[www.wccf.org](http://www.wccf.org)

### Wisconsin Women's Network

122 State Street 201B  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 255-9809  
[www.wiwomensnetwork.org](http://www.wiwomensnetwork.org)

### Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee

316 N. Milwaukee St., Suite 215  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 290-7350  
[www.womensfund.com](http://www.womensfund.com)

“It’s time to rev  
up the women’s  
health movement  
again. Health  
care for all is our  
issue. We’re the  
ones who have to  
make it happen.”

– Byllye Avery, Founder  
Black Women’s Health Imperative



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P.O. Box 1726  
Madison, WI 53701  
(608) 251-0139  
[www.supportwomenshealth.org](http://www.supportwomenshealth.org)

**Raising Women's Voices**  
[www.raisingwomensvoices.net](http://www.raisingwomensvoices.net)  
[www.raisingwiwomensvoices.org](http://www.raisingwiwomensvoices.org)

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*The Milwaukee Women's Speak-Out Event is hosted  
by the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health  
with support from Raising Women's Voices.*

*Spanish interpreters are available.  
ASL interpreters are provided for the deaf and hard of hearing.  
Interpreting provided in part by IndependenceFirst.*

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