



# Planned Parenthood®

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Immediate Release

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## **St. Thomas Law School Dean Bans Students from Volunteer Work at Planned Parenthood**

Statement from Sarah Stoesz, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota

The premise of academic institutions is the free and open exchange of opinions and ideas. It appears that in overriding the decision of the student board and forbidding students to volunteer at Planned Parenthood, Dean Thomas Mengler circumvented that process.

From the recent controversy over the appearance of Bishop Desmond Tutu to trumping due process for students, the administration at St. Thomas appears to be out of step with many of its own students and the majority of Minnesotans. This decision illustrates a disturbing and dangerous lack of tolerance on the part of leadership at the school.

Planned Parenthood has served Minnesota for 80 years. Family planning, affordable health care and education make good sense to most Minnesotans. That work is the vast majority of Planned Parenthood's focus every day in communities across the region.

Planned Parenthood is committed to generating opportunities for all and ensuring that women and families have access to health care no matter their ability to pay.

We are proud of our mission and of the work of our volunteers. In 2007, nearly 700 volunteers served communities across our region donating over 28,000 hours to the people Planned Parenthood serves.

For 80 years Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota has worked in our region to make sure all people have the information and the means to make free and responsible decisions about whether and when to have children. Planned Parenthood operates 29 clinics in Minnesota and South Dakota, providing quality and affordable family planning, reproductive health care services and education to more than 60,000 women and men each year.

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