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We have the power to block changes threatening critical programs

By TAM ST. CLAIRE 10 hrs ago

Even with all the distractions, Congress and the president are proposing changes that eliminate or threaten programs, funding and legislation that support women's health and the economic security of most Americans. At a time like this, it is important to remember the power we have as active community members in Bucks County.

Last month, the Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition (BCWAC) met for our Annual Meeting to discuss and further our vision of a socially just and respectful society invested in advancing the full potential of individuals, families, and the community. A nonpartisan and principle-based 501(c)(4) organization. Typically referred to as "social welfare" groups, 501(c)(4)s are nonprofit organizations that in theory are designed to promote social welfare causes. "501(c)" is just the IRS's designation in the tax code for nonprofit groups, and (4) is the subsection of groups. In BCWAC's case, we are dedicated to educating and advocating on behalf of Pennsylvania women to achieve gender equity and economic security through systemic change.

Our Coalition is comprised of individuals and organizations committed to ensuring every Pennsylvanian has access to food, shelter, transportation, education, health care, a fair wage and a good job. During the previous legislative session, Pennsylvania lawmakers advanced several policies supported by BCWAC that protect and advance the interests of women and families.

This session, BCWAC traveled to Harrisburg to speak with our legislators on the importance of health care access, the preservation of vital housing and education funding, the SNAP program, and other critical programs that promote economic security. We do not want to allow the ideologues in Harrisburg and Washington to take away our health care, our family planning, our childcare, our public education, our jobs, and our regulations that protect our health and safety.

We are not going to stand silently aside while the NRA pushes a bill to allow school personnel to carry guns. We are going to be proactive and demand paid sick leave for everyone, paid family and medical leave, quality pre-K

programs, universal health care, access to contraceptives and choices in our reproductive care.

We are going to insist that the values that made our country the envy of the world are not lost for our kids and grandkids.

Respect for all people no matter their gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, or age makes us stronger. Our open arms to immigrants has always made us a kinder nation. Our generosity to lift up and help those in need enriches us all.

By joining together as Bucks County women, we have the power to resist an extremist, partisan legislative agenda that endangers our families, and instead, use our voices and our votes to fight back against lawmakers who no longer serve our collective interests. I invite you to check out our website (www.bcwac.org) and utilize the education tools such as our legislative tracking chart to stay up-to-date on important measures circulating in Harrisburg and Washington.

You can sign up for our weekly eNewsletters and browse previous press releases on our website to learn more about the Coalition and our priorities. BCWAC is ready to resist any attempt to overturn the progress women have made over the last fifty years. We invite you to join us. www.bcwac.org

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