ProKanDo History

ProKanDo, Kansas’ leading and largest pro-choice political action committee has been successfully supporting pro-woman policies and pro-choice state legislation in Kansas since 2002. It seeks out, promotes and raises money to support pro-choice candidates who are willing to serve at the state level and eventually at the national level. Additionally, ProKanDo educates voters about candidates so they can make informed voting decisions that will protect reproductive freedom in Kansas. ProKanDo’s mission is to ensure that all women continue to have access to reproductive health care.

During the legislative session, ProKanDo lobbies the state legislature in support of pro-woman bills, while working to defeat any harmful legislation that would potentially turn back the clock on women’s rights.

Founder

ProKanDo’s founder is an internationally known family practice physician who has been performing abortion services since 1973. His clinic, Wichita, Kansas-based Women’s Health Services, is one of the few clinics in the United States and in the Western Hemisphere that specializes in late termination of pregnancy for fetal abnormalities and maternal health risks.

Dr. Tiller is a Diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice Physicians. His vast experience over three decades of family medicine practice, both inpatient and outpatient, helps him to bring quality care to this very specialized area of medicine and women's health care. He has received numerous awards including the National Abortion Federation’s highest honor, the Christopher Tietze Humanitarian Award and the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights' Faith and Freedom Award.

Because he performs late term abortions, the anti-choice movement in Kansas and across the country has made it a priority to eliminate Dr. Tiller’s clinic. They have tried many tactics to accomplish this task: bombings and shootings, threats, and protests. They have even injured Dr. Tiller himself. In 1993, he was shot in both arms by a clinic protestor. Due to his tenacity, he was back at work the next day. Courageously, he continues to treat women’s health needs to this day at his clinic.

Legislative Victories

Since its inception, ProKanDo has successfully fought anti-woman, anti-choice legislation in the Kansas Legislature, and supported Governor Kathleen Sebelius’ vetoes of anti-choice legislation. Each year conservative activists and legislators in the state attempt to limit access to reproductive choice through various pieces of legislation, and each year ProKanDo works to stop their efforts by lobbying against their bills as well as by proposing alternate legislation to House and Senate committees.
ProKanDo has defeated 13 pieces of legislation in the Kansas Legislature over the course of the last four legislative sessions. These bills include:

- Targeted Regulations Against Abortion Providers (TRAP) – A bill that would have placed undue restrictions on abortion clinics in order to limit the number of providers, thus restricting health care services for women. The Governor vetoed this bill twice and the House failed to override each time.
- HB 2007 – This bill would have put restrictions on 3rd trimester abortions.
- “Unborn Victims of Violence Act” (UVVA) – A bill that would have undermined Roe v Wade by establishing fetal personhood and ignored violence against women. It was introduced three times in the legislature, and defeated each time. It has been introduced in several different legislative sessions.
- HB 2761 - A bill that would have extended insurance coverage to fetuses, thereby establishing fetal personhood.
- HB 2543 - A bill giving tax-exempt status to crisis pregnancy centers. Crisis pregnancy centers are “fake clinics,” which offer free pregnancy tests and anti-choice propaganda.
- SB 528 - In a direct target on late terminations of pregnancy, this was a bill that would have required physicians performing abortions to turn over detailed information about their patients to the state. The Governor vetoed and the Senate failed to override.

Election Victories:

ProKanDo’s first year was a busy one in terms of participation in electoral politics. In 2002, there was an important gubernatorial race looming. ProKanDo wasted no time in supporting the best pro-choice candidate in the race – Democrat Kathleen Sebelius, then the state’s Insurance Commissioner. She faced Republican Tim Shallenburger. With ProKanDo’s help, she won with almost 53% of the vote.

In 2004, ProKanDo’s goal was to maintain enough pro-choice votes in the Kansas legislature to sustain the Governor’s veto of any anti-choice legislation. Again, ProKanDo was successful. ProKanDo also held the line on women’s rights in the State Senate and State House through aggressive lobbying, a rapid-response supporter alert system and diplomatic negotiations with key legislators.

For the 2006 election, ProKanDo had three goals: defeat Attorney General Phill Kline, re-elect Governor Sebelius and increase the number of pro-choice State House members. All three goals were met, in no small part due to ProKanDo’s efforts. Pro-choice Democrat Paul Morrison defeated Attorney General Phill Kline by a 16-point margin, and Governor Sebelius more than doubled her 2002 winning margin by defeating her challenger by 16 points. In the state House, there are now five more pro-choice House members than there were before the election.

ProKanDo worked to ensure these election victories through exhaustive polling, modeling and micro-targeting. Using direct mail, targeted phone calls and aiding individual candidates, ProKanDo met all off the goals set prior to Election Day.
Fundraising/Financial:

ProKanDo, the largest political action committee in Kansas, has led in fundraising and spending since its inception in 2002. That year, ProKanDo raised and spent over $380,000 through independent expenditures and direct contributions to candidates.

In 2003, ProKanDo developed a long-term financial strategy, and laid the vital groundwork for its infrastructure and the upcoming election cycle. In 2004, ProKanDo raised and spent over $260,000, maintaining its status as Kansas’ top political action committee.

In 2006, ProKanDo provided the largest independent expenditure to ensure the defeat of Attorney General Phill Kline. The total raised by ProKanDo for electoral political work and for lobbying was almost $750,000.

ProKanDo is the fastest growing and arguably the most powerful PAC in the state of Kansas. In just a few short years, this organization, with professional tactics and an unwavering base of supporters and contributors, has managed to eclipse the competition and ensure that reproductive freedom will always be protected.