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Contacts:

Belle Taylor-McGhee - (510) 272-0150 (Bay Area)

Juana Rosa Caverio - (213) 386-1383 (Los Angeles)

California says NO to Parental Notification for the Third Time

The Pacific Institute on Women's Health Thanks Voters for Protecting Women's Health

(Los Angeles/Oakland) - For the third time since 2005, California voters showed their support for young women's access to life-saving medical procedures and defeated Proposition 4. Once again, the California electorate made it clear that family communications cannot be legislated. Ultimately, reaffirming that the real solutions that will strengthen the lives of women, especially young women, include comprehensive sex education and access to culturally competent reproductive health services.

Similar victories for women's health were won throughout the nation. By a three-to-one margin, Colorado voters resoundingly rejected Amendment 48, which would have granted legal rights to fertilized eggs. And South Dakota voters defeated Measure 11 that sought to ban abortions, except in the cases of rape, incest or in narrowly defined instances "to preserve the health or life of the woman."

The Pacific Institute for Women's Health (PIWH) is energized by the outcomes in California, Colorado and South Dakota, as is the entire reproductive justice movement. In spite of these wins, we must stay vigilant of deceptive tactics that seek to undermine women's access to a healthy mind, body and spirit.

Such vigilance will be needed as we join efforts to rebuke the passing of Proposition 8 in California. We were surprised and saddened that Proposition 8 passed; this ballot initiative would change California's Constitution to only recognize marriage between a man and a woman. PIWH stands in solidarity with advocates and individuals who seek equity and justice for all persons— without exception.

Finally, PIWH congratulates President-Elect Barack Obama. We look forward to the opportunities this new administration will present our movement with a clear pro-choice leader at the helm. PIWH thanks YOU for using your electoral power this year to enact change!

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