



## **Media Advisory**

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## **Jeannette Rankin Civil Liberties Awards honor Planned Parenthood of MT and Kalispell student Barrie Sugarman**

MISSOULA, MT — The ACLU of Montana is dedicated to preserving and advancing civil liberties, but it's a mission we can't accomplish alone. The Jeannette Rankin Civil Liberties Awards recognize those whose commitment to the principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights make a real and significant difference in the lives of Montanans.

**Planned Parenthood of Montana** withstood relentless attacks from those so determined to deny a woman's right to choose that they sought to wipe out funding for all Planned Parenthood programs, including contraception, breast health and women's health services. And in the face of those attacks, the organization still covered significant ground, including winning its case against the state of Montana over its refusal to provide prescription contraception coverage for minors enrolled in Healthy Montana Kids (formerly the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP).

When Flathead High School administrators sent a student home last school year for wearing a shirt that said, "Legalize Gay," **Barrie Sue Sugarman** knew rights were being violated. "This is a clear violation of the First Amendment, which gives U.S. citizens, INCLUDING STUDENTS, freedom of speech. The Tinker v. Des Moines Supreme Court case from 1969 specifically outlines this freedom of speech for students," she wrote while organizing a free speech demonstration at her school. During the T-shirts for Tinker protest, students wore T-shirts with a variety of messages on the front and T-shirts for Tinker on the back, showing administrators they understood their rights.

**WHAT:** Jeannette Rankin Civil Liberties Awards, honoring Montanans who demonstrate the strength of character and commitment to principles embodied in the ACLU's mission and vision and exemplified by Montana's own Jeannette Rankin – the first woman to serve in the U.S. Congress and the ACLU's first vice president.

**WHO:** Planned Parenthood of Montana for its commitment to privacy and protecting women's control over their own bodies.  
Barrie Sue Sugarman for standing up for students' free speech rights at Flathead High School in Kalispell

**WHEN:** Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012  
6-8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Missoula Winery and Events Center  
5646 W. Harrier

**Free** and open to the public. Registration at [www.aclumontana.org](http://www.aclumontana.org)