

# CHOICE Remarks

FALL 2021

## “Where You Are is Where You Fight: ” Protecting Safe, Legal Abortion



**Join Us for a Rally:  
October 2 in  
Albany**

By now you may already know that Texas's radical 6-week abortion ban (S.B. 8) has made abortion nearly impossible to access in Texas. With no relief from the U.S. Supreme Court, Texas has started its cruel and dangerous near-total ban with the unusual “Public Cause of Action” allowing citizens and activists to become the bill's enforcers. Now, ordinary citizens can sue anyone for up to \$10,000 for just helping someone access an abortion. Texas has turned its back on the fundamental rights of millions of people. This dangerous precedent is paving the way for extreme laws of this kind to go into effect in more states as anti-abortion activists grow more emboldened.

Across the reproductive rights movement concerns, have been raised about the radical agenda to punish doctors and others who support access to abortion. Attacks from the far-right hope to systematically isolate pregnant people from the support and medical services they need.. Still more than 70% of Americans believe that Roe v Wade should be the law of the land and that decisions

regarding pregnancy are best made between a woman and her health care provider in private. These attacks strike at the very core of our health care system and they must be stopped.

To be perfectly clear, our health care system is not what it should be. People of color, Latinx people, and people with low incomes have never been served well. Disparities in health outcomes are evidence of this inequity. The radical anti-abortion agenda will only make these gaps widen. The target of this Texas law is not abortion in general, it is the freedom of black and brown women and lower income women. It is designed to dehumanize their experience and to limit their access to the futures they deserve.

So what can we do about it? In 2019, with your support, we passed the Reproductive Health Act in New York State to codify Roe v. Wade protections into state law, and ensure access to safe, legal abortion. We continue to stand proudly as an abortion provider in our region and work every day to provide the very best, non-judgmental care. But there is so much more to be done.

How can you take action? **Join the Women's March for Reproductive Rights on Saturday, October 2** to make our voices heard at the steps of the Supreme Court, and in communities across the U.S., including here in Albany. We're gearing up for the fight of our lives. We will fight through the courts and march in every single state to send the singular, powerful message: We won't back down. Not now, not ever.

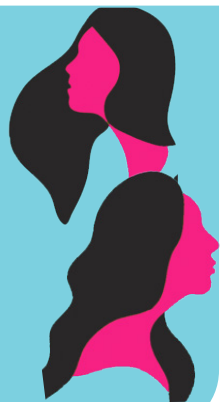
## Leadership Circle Virtual Event:

### Abortion Access: What Happens When You're Turned Away

**EVENT DATE: Thursday, October 28 from 12:30 - 1:30 PM**

UHPP is hosting a virtual conversation about abortion access and the effects of unwanted pregnancy on women's lives with Dr. Diana Greene Foster and Dr. Dorcay Applrys. Dr. Foster is the author of The Turnaway Study. Her research has examined the mental health,

physical health, and socioeconomic consequences of receiving an abortion compared to carrying an unwanted pregnancy to term. This topic has never been more relevant as we continue to watch these relentless attacks on abortion care throughout our country.



# UHPP Awarded New Education Grant

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has awarded Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood (UHPP) and Mission Accomplished Transitions Services (MATS) a five year \$1.75 million grant to provide after school programming.



UHPP, in collaboration with MATS, will offer multifaceted programming to high-risk school districts within Albany and Rensselaer counties. Minority, economically, and socially disadvantaged students will engage in social-entrepreneurial, emotional, reproductive, and social justice-based enrichment opportunities designed to address violence prevention.

Students will be engaged in a minimum of six hours per week for the duration of the academic school year. UHPP will expand their education team to add a new full-time Sexual Health Educator and a part-time Program Assistant, and MATS will hire two full-time and one part-time staff.

*"I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to engage our local school districts while continuing to cultivate our growing relationship with Coach Carmen and Mission Accomplished," says Zanetta Graham, Vice President of Education at UHPP.*

## UHPP's 2021 Capital Campaign \$100 Challenge

**We are calling on 1,000 people to help us cross the finish line with a gift of \$100.**

Reproductive freedom is under attack, and we need your help. The last few years have been chilling, as records were set for the number and severity of state-level bans on abortion and there is no sign of stopping. The good news is we won't stop either. We will always fight for our patients' right to access care. All three of our health centers are proud to offer abortion care in addition to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services we are known for.

We launched our Capital Campaign with a goal of raising a \$5 million Patient Access Fund to preserve access to abortion, no matter what. We are ready to fight back against these attacks and deliver the high-quality services our community deserves. As of today, we have just \$93,000 left to raise to complete our campaign.



**Can we count on you? To give visit online at [uhpp.org](http://uhpp.org) or use our QR code.**

## Expanding Services: Treating Syphilis



With the help and training from the NYS Department of Health, UHPP expanded services to offer the diagnosis and treatment of syphilis this spring. As part of a grant through Planned Parenthood Federation of America, we were able to expand our marketing efforts in both English and Spanish to encourage STI testing in our community. The campaign included bus advertising as well as online ads including Connected TV, GeoFencing, Cross Screen Video, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. During the campaign UHPP saw an 41% increase STI testing appointment requests and an increase of 68% of syphilis testing.



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**NEW LOCATION:**  
120 Hoosick Street  
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