

Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

We are hearing from a lot of supporters who are eager to show their support for Planned Parenthood in the form of a counter-protest outside of our health centers, in opposition to anti-abortion protestors.

At Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, we ask our supporters not to counterprotest outside of any of our health centers. We discourage any counter-protests outside of PPLM.

Q: Why don't you support any counter-protests?

A: While we understand it's frustrating to see those protesters, we discourage our supporters from holding counter-protests outside our health centers. Any form of protest outside of our health centers, even in support, is not beneficial to our patients. Our patients are simply trying to access their health care, so having demonstrators of any kind outside the health center, can create an intimidating and disruptive experience for them.

Q: Can't we help protect patients if we're outside your health center?

A: PPLM Security's primary objective is to ensure the safety of patients and staff. We have the highest security measures in place to ensure just that.

Counter-protests can potentially increase the risk of loud and dangerous confrontations between opposing parties. Oftentimes in a protest/counter-protest situation, patients typically cannot tell who is with them and who is against them. They just see a big, scary mob.

In Boston, we have a robust clinic escort program in which trained volunteers help diffuse situations and help patients navigate their way through any protests, as needed. An increased number of people outside our health centers only makes their jobs harder.

Q: If I can't counter-protest, what else can I do to get involved and fight for reproductive health and rights?

There are a number of ways you can help!

- Register to volunteer with PPLM here.
- Donate locally to Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.
- <u>Join the Young Friends of PPLM</u>, a philanthropic group of people ages 21-35 dedicated to ensuring access to quality reproductive health care and sexual education.
- <u>Follow us on Facebook</u> to stay up to date on ways to get involved and show up for PPLM In the future.
- <u>Get involved with the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts</u>, the political and advocacy arm of PPLM.
- Organize your own fundraising event in support of Planned Parenthood. Email events@pplm.org for more information.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support!