



Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

NEWS SOURCE

Winter 2020

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & CEO MEAGAN GALLAGHER

Dear Friends -

Welcome, 2020! There is so much progress to celebrate this year - one hundred years of women's right to vote and sixty years of the birth control pill. Against the backdrop of this powerful history, **the attacks on reproductive freedom continue to escalate.**

In January, we celebrated the 47th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision - and the progress it spurred. Roe was transformative in 1973 - abortion went from being legal in a handful of states to legal in all states. It saved lives. But state laws restricting abortion access have changed that. Today, access depends on where you live, how much money you have, and the color of your skin. **In 1973 Roe was transformative; today, it is insufficient.**

Looking ahead, we continue to see attacks from an Administration hostile to reproductive rights and freedom. We are watching closely the first abortion rights case that the Supreme Court will hear since the confirmation of Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh. This decision could impose extreme restrictions on access to abortion and further dismantle the protections of Roe.

This is our reality, and we are facing it head on. That is why protecting and providing sexual and reproductive health care and information is a central part of our work. And that is why, with your help, **PPNNE is focused on creating a more equitable healthcare system** that removes the barriers that our patients and others must navigate in order to access the care they need and deserve. Our present healthcare system is leaving people out, and we have begun the work to change that in northern New England.

As you read this newsletter, I invite you to not just see the impact of PPNNE's work, but how we are doing our work. We are investing in programming, staffing, and care that aims to achieve systemic change far beyond our health center walls.

I am more grateful than ever for your support. We are not giving up. We are digging in. **Thanks to you.**

With gratitude,

Meagan



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Youth Sex Education Summit

On December 11th 2019, PPNNE's Vermont Education team hosted our first annual Vermont **Youth Sex Education Summit** in Burlington, Vermont. The summit provided **leadership training** for high school students to **expand access to sex education statewide** and increased young people's knowledge of and access to sexual and reproductive health care. It was such a success, summits in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont are being planned for 2020!



What does it look like when 66 youth, 20 adults, 9 Peer Educators, 6 PPNNE Staff, and 8 Community Organizations get together to talk about Sex Education in Vermont?

It looks like this ...

Advocates for Sexual Knowledge: A.S.K

PPNNE A.S.K Peer Educators ran workshops and served as resources to the youth, teachers, and professionals who attended.



Workshops

Attendees rotated through 4 workshops led by a mix of adults and A.S.K Peer Educators.

Closing Activities

Attendees wrote notes to their future selves, made sex education wishes, and wrote their sex education ideals.



Public Affairs Updates

VERMONT

The Vermont Public Affairs team is working with our legislative allies to renew family planning funding it secured last year from the state of Vermont after PPNNE was forced out of the Title X program by the Trump administration. **This funding is critical for more than 11,000 Vermonters to be able to access care.** We are also supporting a bill (H.663) that would expand access to contraception and counseling for Vermonters, as well as working with coalition partners on a bill to increase the minimum wage and a paid family leave bill. Gov. Scott has vetoed both bills despite broad support for each in the House, Senate, and with the public. These issues are a critical piece of finding solutions to address racial, gender, and economic disparities.

MAINE

Last year, the Maine Public Affairs team lobbied in support of a bill to allow **nonprescription medicine, including emergency contraception, to be sold in vending machines.** The idea came from USM student, Emma Donnelly, who along with State Rep. Mo Terry, won the Charlotte Ellertson Innovation Award from the American Society for Emergency Contraception for their work. Now that the law has taken effect, our campus organizer is working with our Planned Parenthood Generation Action chapters and supporters at Bates and Maine College of Art to bring wellness vending machines to their campuses.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Public Affairs team is working with our allies to **defeat four bills in New Hampshire that ban or restrict abortion.** We are also working to pass proactive legislation that will ensure coverage of abortion in all commercial insurance plans, including plans on the ACA Marketplace.

2020 Women's March in Photos



Activists in Portland, ME



PA State Rep. Summer Lee in Castleton, VT



Our Supporters in Concord, NH

Together, we have so much to be proud of!

“I can't rave enough about how amazing my experience was with this facility. I've never received that level of care at any other doctor's office. Everyone was very attentive and caring. I've been terrified to get this procedure done and have been putting it off for about a year and a half. Everyone I dealt with here was super understanding about me being nervous, happily answered every question I had, and went out of their way to make sure I was comfortable and taken care of after the fact.” - PPNNE PATIENT

Day in and day out, this is the expert, compassionate care PPNNE provides to more than 44,000 patients a year at 21 health centers across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. It is care that empowers patients to make informed choices about their bodies and their lives. We have made a commitment to ensure the best care for each and every patient who comes to us – regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, income, zip code, or immigration status. **With your support, we are able to keep this commitment.**

Start out the new year by joining PPNNE's **Sustainer Program!**

The PPNNE Sustainer Program is a **monthly giving program** that provides a steady stream of income throughout the year, no matter what challenges may come our way. We're so grateful for the 600+ supporters who are already part of the Sustainer Program. If you'd like to join them, please fill out the information in the envelope provided.

You can also make a one-time donation today by using the enclosed envelope or online at **www.ppnne.org/annualfund**. If you have any questions about other ways to support PPNNE, including gifts of stock, making a special donation from your IRA (if you're over the age of 70 ½), or through your will, please contact Jennifer Long, Director of Development Operations at jennifer.long@ppnne.org or call our fundraising team at 1-800-287-8188 ext 9704.

On behalf of all our patients, **THANK YOU**.

