

the Advocate

Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

winter 2018

Victory! PPLM Celebrates Passage of Contraceptive ACCESS

In November, Massachusetts guaranteed a woman's right to affordable birth control with a new state measure: the Contraceptive ACCESS law. This legislative victory, spearheaded by a Planned Parenthood-led coalition, came just a month after the Trump administration issued a sweeping executive order that took harsh aim at contraception access and permitted any employer to deny their employees birth control coverage, for any reason. Thanks to the new Contraceptive ACCESS law, 1.4 million women in Massachusetts now have the reassurance that their no copay contraceptive coverage cannot be taken away by their employers or by politicians in Congress eager to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Although Contraceptive ACCESS was passed swiftly on the heels of Trump's disastrous ruling, the new law is the result of years of advocacy and legal preparation by Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM), its political arm, the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund (PPAF), and its coalition partners. Leda Anderson, PPAF policy counsel, authored the bill and helped guide it toward passage. Efforts began in 2015, but after the 2016 presidential election the bill became a top priority. "We could see, early on, that not only abortion but contraception was going to be a target of the Trump administration," says Anderson.



Governor Baker, surrounded by elected officials and PPLM President & CEO Jennifer Childs-Roshak (far left), signs the Contraceptive ACCESS bill into law.

"We enhanced and accelerated our advocacy program, and by the beginning of the legislative session last January, we had secured an unprecedented number of cosponsors in the Massachusetts House and Senate. When the Trump ruling was issued, we were ready."

Anderson worked in partnership with key advocacy groups and coordinated efforts with PPAF's expanded team of grassroots organizers, who fanned out across Eastern, Central, and Western Massachusetts to inform and galvanize public support around passage of the bill. As policy counsel, she also led critical negotiations with health insurers, brokering compromises that enabled the bill to pass quickly with bipartisan support, making

Massachusetts the first state to effectively engage insurers in its strategy. Massachusetts was also the first state to take legislative action since Trump's birth control rule – and it is one of a few states to pass such a comprehensive state law guaranteeing contraceptive coverage. In addition to the no copay protections, women in Massachusetts now have improved coverage for emergency contraception, and are able to obtain a 12-month supply of birth control. Because of PPLM's and PPAF's diligent and strategic work, Massachusetts will continue to lead the way in the national fight for reproductive freedom.

ceo's corner

Natasha Moustache



Dear Friends,
As PPLM begins a new year, we are celebrating our achievements and gearing up for what lies ahead. You'll read in this *Advocate* about how our decision to further invest in advocacy work, even before the Trump era, led us to a remarkable victory in passing a new law that guarantees access to no copay birth control coverage for Massachusetts women.

You'll read about our laser focus on improving health outcomes for underserved populations, such as LGBTQ youth, immigrants, and communities of color. You'll also meet one of the newest members of PPLM's dedicated Board of Directors, and you'll hear from our allies across the progressive movement.

Each of our initiatives breaks down formidable barriers to care and builds healthy communities throughout Massachusetts. As a family physician for over 20 years, I witnessed the consequences of these barriers in my daily practice, especially when my patients couldn't afford birth control because of high copays or out of pocket costs. That's why I'm so gratified to lead PPLM at a time when strategic, forceful, and unwavering action is protecting and expanding access.

With your support, PPLM is making a difference in millions of lives across the Commonwealth. Your generosity makes our success possible – thank you!

Jennifer Childs-Roshak, MD, MBA
President and CEO

advocate spotlight: Dr. JudyAnn Bigby Joins PPLM Board

As a physician, public health advocate, government official, and policy maker, one of PPLM's newest board members has dedicated her career to advancing health care for the most vulnerable populations. Dr. Bigby currently serves as Executive Director of South Africa Partners, which fosters partnerships in health and education between the U.S. and South Africa.

During your impressive career, how have your interests intersected with PPLM? As a physician, I observed firsthand how the medical system—and its focus on diseases instead of wellness—fails women and creates barriers to care. The system has also failed to recognize and act on the unique needs of women, especially women from racial and ethnic minority groups. PPLM fills a void in both reproductive health care and education.

What aspect of your career has been most satisfying? I loved being a primary care doctor for women, who have inspired me with their resilience, concern for

family and community, and willingness to share their vulnerabilities. It was also a great privilege to work for Governor Deval Patrick as Secretary of Health and Human Services for Massachusetts, pursuing the goals of improving health care and conditions for children and families.



Why did you join the PPLM Board of Directors at this time? PPLM offers much needed services in Massachusetts, helping to fill in persistent gaps in care for women, even in a state with excellent insurance coverage. PPLM's advocacy on behalf of women's reproductive health, in the Commonwealth and nationally, is more important now than ever.

Joining Forces: PPAF Expands Statewide Advocacy

PPLM has long acted on the conviction that access to reproductive health care is a critical determinant in every person's ability to realize personal, educational, and professional goals. But women, people of color, LGBTQ communities, immigrants, people with low incomes, and other marginalized populations face systemic barriers to access, from legislative restrictions to more nuanced kinds of discrimination and exclusion. These burdens have been amplified by today's political climate and by the Trump administration's punitive executive orders.

That's why the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts (PPAF), PPLM's political arm, has strategically expanded its advocacy agenda and formed partnerships with allies in key progressive movements. The goal of this purposeful and visible coalition-based approach is to integrate reproductive health issues with the fight for social, economic, and racial justice – through strategic communications, legislative advocacy, education, and community organizing.

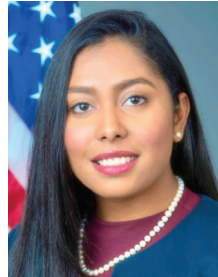
These collaborative efforts were recently highlighted in October at the annual PPLM President's Society Conference, where supporters heard from the coalition partners below and learned about the organization's deepening commitment to fight health disparities.

Carl Sciortino, Executive Director at AIDS Action Committee

"We're giving people a voice at a time when the Trump administration is silencing voices."

Partnership Priorities:

- PPAF is a coalition partner in the MA Getting to Zero Coalition, led by AIDS Action Committee, working to end HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts.
- PPLM and its partners have launched a comprehensive HIV prevention campaign in Western Massachusetts to improve access to HIV testing and prevention.



Representative Juana Matias (D - Lawrence)

"Marginalized communities already face barriers to reproductive health care. Women are fearful of going to their doctors' appointments and accessing health care because they're worried they'll get deported."

Partnership Priorities:

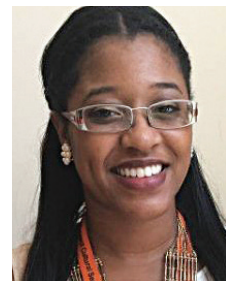
- PPAF supports the *Massachusetts Safe Communities Act*, legislation to strengthen and protect the rights, safety, and well-being of immigrants in the state.

Shanique Spalding, PPAF Western & Central Massachusetts organizer

"Our motto, care—no matter what, doesn't just start and stop in our health centers."

Partnership Priorities:

- Shanique is one of PPAF's new organizing staff members, expanding relationships and participating in outreach events in solidarity with racial justice groups, the LGBTQ movement, and youth advocacy across the state.

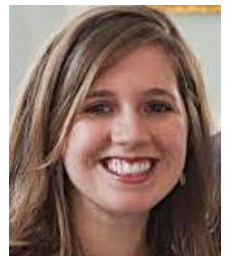


Chelsie Ouellette, Campaign Director at Field First, Consultant for Raise Up Massachusetts

"When women and families can take time off to care for their children, we all benefit."

Partnership Priorities:

- PPAF supports both the state *Paid Family and Medical Leave Act* and *Lift the Cap on Kids* (legislation to overturn a racially unjust policy in place that denies welfare benefits to children born after their families began receiving benefits).



PPLM and PPAF will continue to expand their coalition work and scope of advocacy across issues and movements to meet the sexual and reproductive health care needs of all people in the Commonwealth.

faces & places



Images (from top): **1.** Olive Darragh, Wes Smith, and Eliza Anderson (host) at the Cambridge House Party in November; **2.** Former PPLM Board Chair Nonnie Burnes receives the 2017 Association of Fundraising Professionals-Massachusetts Philanthropist of Distinction Award in November; **3.** PPAF Policy Counsel Leda Anderson, PPLM Board member Dan Ginsburg, PPAF President Jen Childs-Roshak, PPAF Board Chair Joanne Mueller, Speaker Pro Tempore Pat Haddad, PPAF Communications Director Tricia Wadja, and PPAF Government Affairs Associate Nikki Goldschein celebrate the passage of the Contraceptive ACCESS measure. (Image Credits: Image 1, Natasha Moustache; Image 3, Nina Gallant)



Upcoming Events

- **Celebration of Choices** to benefit the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts. **March 27, 2018, 6:30pm**
Visit ppaction.org/MACHoices for details.
- **Concord House Party**, May 21, 2018
- **Dover/Dedham/Westwood House Party**, May 23, 2018

Please support PPLM by visiting www.pplm.org/donate or email development@pplm.org.



The PPLM annual report has gone green! Our annual report is available as an online-only publication. We invite you to learn more about the work your investment in PPLM made possible by visiting PPLM.org/FY17AnnualReport.