



**We will continue to  
protect access in Maryland.**

## FROM THE CEO

Our worst fears have been realized. The Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade*, allowing individual states to ban abortion. After nearly 50 years of upholding a fundamental freedom, this decision may strip nearly half the country of access to abortion in their home state, while giving lawmakers free rein to interfere with personal medical decisions.

This dangerous decision opened the way in our country for politicians to strip away rights and protections. Some states are using the ruling to enact new abortion bans, while others revert back to old bans that are taking effect. As of August 30, we've already seen 16 states pass abortion bans and are now witnessing people having to leave their own communities just to receive care.

**But here in Maryland: Abortion is still legal** and Planned Parenthood of Maryland continues to proudly provide abortion care in 7 sites across the state. Maryland has consistently chosen to protect

and support people's autonomy to make decisions about their bodies and their future. And, we at Planned Parenthood will continue to protect that access with all we have. We will be there for our patients, no matter what.

In this newsletter, you'll read about our efforts in advocacy, clinical care, and infrastructure building with the support of private dollars to meet this moment for patients seeking abortion care in Maryland. I am grateful for all YOU do to advocate for our patients, and for anyone seeking reproductive healthcare in this state.



With gratitude,



**Karen J. Nelson**

## ADVOCACY

PPM's advocacy team is always working to ensure Maryland is a leader in reproductive access and justice. Over the past several years, PPM identified ways Maryland needed to boost its infrastructure to expand medical equity for Marylanders and prepare for a negative outcome from the Supreme Court on the constitutional right to abortion.

The Maryland General Assembly took a huge step in 2022 to create more access. The Abortion Care Access Act passed in both the House and the Senate, and survived a Governor's veto by receiving a super-majority vote. The Abortion Care Access Act does a few things:

### **Expands who can perform abortion care services:**

Abortion access shouldn't depend on zip code, yet two-thirds of Maryland counties do not have abortion providers. To expand the provider community, we needed to update Maryland's law on the provision of abortion care. By removing physician-only language from our law, nurse-practitioners, licensed midwives, and physician assistants will be able to perform abortions, expanding the pool of qualified care providers available to patients. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists recommends this action and before Maryland joined, 14 other states have already expanded their laws to allow these professions to provide abortion care.

### **Provides training dollars to ensure well-trained**

**professionals:** For providers of care in our state budget, 3.5 million dollars will now be made available annually to ensure health care practitioners are able to expand their scope of knowledge and care to patients. **As of August 2022**, Governor Larry Hogan has refused to release these funds to any organizations, and we must continue to advocate and fight for access to this vital educational support.

**Ensures equity in insurance coverage:** Finally, the Act ensures abortion care is covered like any other health service. Both private insurance and Medicaid in Maryland will now have to provide equal abortion coverage without imposing economic barriers like cost-sharing or deductibles or having to justify the reasons to seek care.

**Now, we must put the Abortion Access Act into action!**



**PPM is pleased to welcome as our Vice President of Public Affairs, Erin Bradley.**

Erin brings over 15 years of experience in the areas of communications, policy, and public affairs. Most recently, Erin served as the Vice President of Government Affairs at the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington.

Throughout her career, Erin has held multiple roles in Prince George's County government and has worked in roles in the public health space at both governmental and private sector organizations. She is a passionate advocate for reproductive rights and looks forward to strengthening the legislative protections in Maryland.

**Make a donation online! Visit [www.ppm.care/abortionaccess](http://www.ppm.care/abortionaccess)**

## HEALTHCARE

PPM is working to **build the infrastructure necessary to support an influx of patients from out of state while still maintaining and expanding coverage for Marylanders in need.** We are actively recruiting and training additional providers of care, including advanced practice clinicians and medical assistants, as well as navigators to support the patient experience and build partnerships with other providers of care.

**Strengthening our staffing models** will allow PPM to increase access, by reducing wait times to appointments and increase the overall number of appointments for all services, including abortion care. We are also creating more in-clinic appointment space by expanding our telehealth services, including both a telehealth visit and follow-up delivery of abortion pills by mail.

Projections from national research have shown that tens of thousands on the east coast alone will be seeking care beyond their state lines, with many patients moving up the I-95 corridor. Maryland is a hub of transportation for plane and train travel, increasing the likelihood of patients choosing Maryland for care.

Even when providers are added and trained, and appointments are made available, we know that patients will face intense challenges reaching their appointment: travel, time off work, childcare, lodging, and paying for their appointment, potentially out of pocket. Our coordination with partners such as the Baltimore Abortion Fund ensure that both of these pieces come together - the ability to deliver the abortion care, and the ability to access that care.

**While the landscape and our patient needs may be changing, our mission and values remain the same - PPM is committed to providing non-judgmental, compassionate, high-quality and affordable care, no matter what.**



**JOIN OUR TEAM!**



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Anyone who has worked, volunteered, or had an appointment at PPM has probably run into **Tony G, PPM's Facilities Director**. His dedication, ingenuity, and kindness are well known all over the state. After over 8 years of service, Tony's efforts were recognized at Maryland Nonprofit's 30th anniversary celebration this July. Tony recently received the Maryland Nonprofits Service with Distinction Award! Congratulations to Tony and all the other award winners. **Thank you, Tony, for embodying PPM's values and ensuring that patients have access to care, no matter what.**

**Follow us on social media!**



Planned Parenthood of Maryland



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## DEVELOPMENT

PPM's Abortion Access Campaign, launched this Spring to ready the organization for the SCOTUS decision and our organizational response, provides critical funding to support PPM's expansion of abortion capacity in Maryland by adding providers, clinic days, building partnerships and navigators to coordinate care.

**Our campaign launched with a generous \$100,000 matching challenge from Nancy Hackerman and the Hackerman Foundation.** By July 1, we met that match through individual donations, and as of September 1, including the match gift, we have raised more than **\$260,000 from nearly 500 donors**, with gifts ranging from \$5 to \$20,000. We are humbled by and grateful for this critical support.

**If you haven't had a chance to give, or would like to make a second gift, please visit [www.ppm.care/abortionaccess](http://www.ppm.care/abortionaccess). Want to learn more about other ways to support PPM? Contact Shelly Terranova, VP of Development, at [shelly.terranova@ppm.care](mailto:shelly.terranova@ppm.care).**

DONATE ONLINE



## EDUCATION

PPM's education team pivoted their programming and services during the height of COVID-19 to ensure students, elders, and communities alike still had access to non-judgmental, accurate care. As in-person activities became more feasible, the team has returned to everything from office hours in schools to Health Education interns working with teachers to build student-centered curricula around healthy practices and solid knowledge.

With the fall of Roe, the education team is focused on ensuring that our communities understand that abortion is legal in Maryland, that individuals know their resources and rights, and how to take control of their reproductive health care.

**Below are a few key websites and tips to know and pass on to keep up with current information.**

SAVE THE DATE:

# TeenTalk

A monthly discussion program run by teens for teens.

**Thursdays at 6 PM  
at the Baltimore Health Center**

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Sept 29th
- Oct 20th
- Nov 17th
- Dec 15th

If someone needs to find a safe, **legal place for an abortion**, visit: [abortionfinder.org](http://abortionfinder.org)



**Have a birth control plan in place** and know your options in case birth control fails, including access to emergency contraception or "Plan B".

If someone needs **financial support** for an abortion, visit: [abortionfunds.org](http://abortionfunds.org)



**Using a period tracker?** Many companies sell user data, and this could potentially put your privacy at risk. **Planned Parenthood has its own tracking app, Spot On**, that keeps your data locally, doesn't sell any information and lets you stay anonymous.