

Every person should have equitable access to abortion, no matter who they are or where they live – without shame, stigma, or delay.

INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION

Access to abortion is being decimated across the country in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, putting the future of abortion access in the hands of the states.

In Massachusetts, abortion remains legal and protected, but even here, access to care is not guaranteed due to serious barriers like distance, affordability, pervasive stigma, and systemic racism. These challenges disproportionately affect people of color, LGBTQ+ people, people with low incomes, and people with disabilities. As more people look to Massachusetts as a safe place for care, we must improve access so all people can make the decision that is right for them.



We must advance health equity by reducing the barriers to care that disproportionately affect people of color and people with low incomes. **Our key goal is to expand abortion access in regions with limited abortion providers, such as southeastern Massachusetts.**



***Abortion desert:** a region that has a demand for abortion services while having a lack of abortion providers.

Without health insurance, an abortion typically costs between

\$500 AND \$800

To address the abortion deserts we will:

- 1 harness telehealth to build our medication abortion by mail program;
- 2 advocate for equitable policies that ensure sexual health care is accessible and affordable, including those that reduce the financial barriers to telehealth;
- 3 expand PPLM's patient navigation services to assist our patients, ensuring they can access care, whether at PPLM, a local referral partner, or anywhere across the country;
- 4 create collaborative partnerships with local health care providers and other service organizations in this region, including partnering with public colleges and universities to establish referral programs between campus health centers and PPLM; and
- 5 build community with grassroots leaders and community organizations to increase public support for abortion and combat stigma.

DID YOU KNOW?

PPLM provides more than half of abortions in Massachusetts.

Our western MA health center in Springfield and central MA health center in Worcester provide over 90% of abortion care in their regions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

● 2020

The Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts (PPAF) built a broad coalition of social justice groups, health advocacy organizations, and grassroots activists that lobbied the Legislature and Governor to codify abortion rights into state law in a bill that:



Legalized abortion later in pregnancy for people facing a fatal or grave fetal diagnosis.



Ensured **young people ages 16 and 17 do not need to go to court for permission** to access abortion.



Removed inflammatory language and criminal penalties from Massachusetts laws that were designed to deter providers from offering safe, legal abortion care.

● 2021

Established a telemedicine abortion program to provide eligible patients in Massachusetts with medication for abortions through the mail.

● 2022

Successfully advocated for a reproductive health care law that **mandates insurers cover abortion and abortion-related care.**

● 2023

Established a community partnership with Health Imperatives – an organization providing reproductive health care to patients in Southeastern Massachusetts.

● 2024

Established referral partnerships with eleven public colleges to ensure students have accurate information and easy access to abortion services.