



Planned Parenthood of Northern New England **NEWS SOURCE**

Spring 2021

LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR **MARGOT MILLIKEN**

Dear Friends,

After a challenging year navigating a pandemic, I hope this spring finds you healthy and preparing to re-engage with family, friends, and colleagues.

In March, after eight years leading Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, and more than twenty years with the Planned Parenthood family, **Meagan Gallagher announced that she was moving on from PPNNE** and her role as President and CEO.

We are deeply grateful for Meagan's service to PPNNE. Since becoming President and CEO in 2013, Meagan successfully led this organization through times that were full of opportunity, innovation, and swift growth, and also great challenge, complexity, and frequent change. We know you join us in thanking Meagan for her service and wishing her well on her next endeavor.

During this transition period, PPNNE is being led by a **stellar Interim Leadership Team** made up of **Nicole Clegg**, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs; **Yvonne Lockerby**, Vice President of Centralized Operations; and **Kai Williams**, Senior Vice President of Health Care Delivery. Collectively, they have over

three decades of experience at PPNNE. We are fully confident in their ability to lead our organization in the coming months while we design and conduct a national search for our next CEO. PPNNE's mission and values will guide us as we move forward.

As you'll see inside this edition of *News Source*, while leadership of PPNNE is in transition, what won't change is **our commitment to provide, promote, and protect access to reproductive and sexual health care** and our belief that all people should be empowered to make their own health care decisions. We will keep working to make this a reality for all of our patients, communities, and partners.

Thank you for all the ways you support PPNNE. We couldn't do this work without you.

Margot W. Milliken
PPNNE Board Chair



Serving Maine, New Hampshire, & Vermont

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Meet the Interim Leadership Team



Nicole Clegg
Senior VP of
Public Affairs



Yvonne Lockerby
VP of Centralized
Operations



Kai Williams
Senior VP of
Health Care Delivery

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

What's Happening Across Our Region

New Hampshire

Although the session started with six anti-reproductive health care bills, only one passed out of the NH House, thanks to the concerted and strategic efforts of the PPNNE NH Public Affairs team. That one bill, **HB625, would ban abortion later in pregnancy with virtually no exceptions, including none for fatal fetal anomalies.**



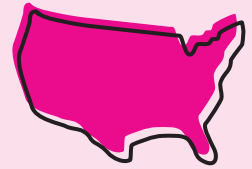
Throughout this legislative process, law makers heard powerful opposition to this bill from dozens of medical experts, patients, and reproductive rights advocates. And instead of listening to experts, senators stripped the language of a policy bill and put it directly in the state budget, which was then passed by the Senate. Governor Sununu, who said he wouldn't support any new abortion restrictions in the fall, has now said he will not veto the budget because of this abortion ban.

Let's be clear: This cruel abortion ban politicizes complex situations at the expense of truth and compassion. If this language becomes law, pregnant people will not be able to have the personal freedom to make complex decisions regarding their future and their family. They will be forced to remain pregnant, even if there is a known fatal fetal diagnosis.

Meanwhile, the current version of the state budget woefully underfunds the NH Family Planning Program, which covers preventive sexual and reproductive health care for patients who are uninsured and/or have low incomes. The fight continues at the Executive Council where we, unfortunately, expect them to reject our contract **resulting in a loss of \$548,000** over the biennium.

"It was really because of them that I was able to get the health care that I needed... **if they hadn't been able to help me with that first round of medication, I could say, almost with certainty, that I would be positive for HIV**... while I was serving in the House of Representatives, I was without insurance, unemployed, and experiencing a health crisis, the only people to make sure this wasn't a life sentence was Planned Parenthood."

An excerpt from NH Rep. Joshua Query's testimony on why this funding is so important after his experience receiving services at our Manchester, NH health center.



National Spotlight

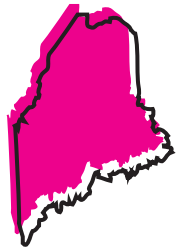
The 2021 state legislative season is shaping up to be **the most hostile in recent history for reproductive health and rights.** State lawmakers, emboldened by the new makeup of the Supreme Court and the 200+ Trump Administration-appointed federal judges, are pushing a harmful agenda against our rights and freedoms.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, **over 500 abortion restrictions** have been introduced this year, and **more than 60** of those have already passed and signed into law.

And now the stakes are even higher, as just a few weeks ago, **the Supreme Court announced it will review Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban.** Politicians opposed to abortion have been working for decades to shift the balance of the court for just this moment: **the opportunity to overturn 50 years of precedent under Roe v. Wade** and end access to safe, legal abortion. This decision should alarm supporters of reproductive rights and freedom – as it's a direct challenge to long-settled law and puts access to abortion at grave risk.

Maine

This year, the Maine legislature is considering **six anti-abortion bills** that would take away MaineCare coverage of abortion, force providers to give patients medically inaccurate information, mandate 48-hour delays and unnecessary procedures for no medical reason, and require burial or cremation after miscarriage or abortion. **These bills aren't written by medical professionals, and they aren't about patient health or safety.** They are an attempt to shame and judge people who need an abortion and they are part of a broader strategy to push abortion out of reach entirely. The Judiciary Committee recommended "ought not to pass" on all the bills which will now go to the State Senate and House for further votes, as our Maine Public Affairs team continues working hard to defeat these efforts.



Vermont



On April 9, the Vermont Senate passed the Reproductive Liberty Amendment (Prop 5), by an overwhelming vote of 26-4. The passage of the amendment in the Senate moves us **one step closer to protecting reproductive freedom for all Vermonters** in our strongest legal document - the state constitution. If passed, Vermont would be the first state in the country to explicitly protect reproductive liberty in its constitution, an important and groundbreaking effort against the backdrop of national attacks. The Reproductive Liberty Amendment now advances to the House. We expect the House to hold a public hearing on the amendment in the next legislative session (2022), an event where **supporter participation will be key.**

VT REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY AMENDMENT'S **PATH TO PASSAGE**



What's Going On With Title X & Funding?

Back in April, the Biden-Harris Administration **announced a proposal to end the Title X gag rule.** The gag rule, in effect since 2019, forced all Planned Parenthood health centers and many other providers out of the Title X program. Currently, the administration is reviewing public comments and we are hopeful that they will officially end the gag rule this fall, making PPNNE once again eligible to apply for Title X federal family planning funding next year. If successful, we anticipate Title X funding to begin in April, 2022. We don't yet know if we'll receive backfill funds from our 3 states in the new fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2021, and we think it's especially unlikely in NH. **Your ongoing support during this uncertain time is vital.**

Title X is the only federal family planning program dedicated to serving millions of patients who need birth control services, STI testing & treatment, preventive care, and much more.

The program provides essential services to patients who need them most, including **those with low incomes, young people, and the uninsured.**



This is what your support makes possible.



I wish I had gone to Planned Parenthood sooner because it made me feel so safe and comfortable from start to finish. After my appointment I honestly don't want to go anywhere else because I don't think other places can live up to the high level of care, respect, and compassion I experienced at my appointment.

- PPNNE Patient

All of our lives were changed by COVID-19. But one thing didn't change – our patients relying on PPNNE for care.

So, with the help of supporters like YOU, we got to work. We adapted, evolved, and innovated. We reimaged what delivering health care could look like. We experimented, we learned, and we adjusted.

Over the last year, PPNNE implemented a telehealth program, provided curbside care, developed an at-home STD testing program, added new options to our birth control by mail service, implemented low-touch medication abortion care and provided free flu shots to any patient unable to afford one.

Together, we are still able to provide care to our patients, regardless of their ability to pay – no matter what.

However, PPNNE health centers are still being significantly affected by the pandemic and its challenges.

These changes to our care delivery model, our pivot to telehealth, and the impact of delivering care during a pandemic result in a continued loss of clinical revenue each month.

And while we work hard every day to meet the needs of our patients, our opposition has not let up. This legislative session we are fighting a slew of bad bills in Maine and New Hampshire – bills that attack access to care, punish people for exercising their reproductive rights, and threaten to defund our work.

That is why we're asking for your support today.

Please take this moment to stand with PPNNE by making a gift today. You can send your gift in the enclosed envelope or make it online at www.ppnne.org/donate.

If you have any questions about other ways to support PPNNE, including gifts of stock, a gift through your Donor Advised Fund, a special donation from your IRA (if you're over the age of 70 ½), or leaving PPNNE in your will or estate plans, please contact Jennifer Long, Acting Vice President of Development, at jennifer.long@ppnne.org, or call our Fundraising Team at 1-800-287-8188 ext. 9704.



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