

Letter from our Interim CEO



It is with great humility that I assume the role of Interim Chief Executive Officer for this great organization. I am as clear-eyed about what lies ahead as I am honored to serve until a permanent CEO is selected by our Board of Trustees.

There is no denying it. The result of the presidential election has dramatically altered how we envision the near future. It compels us to reflect on the strength of purpose, and spirit of community that we have developed at Planned Parenthood.

For more than 100 years, Planned Parenthood has faced those who have wanted to put us out of business and deny our clients their right to make their own decisions. There can be no doubt that this is a serious time in our organization's history. We are grounded in a century of power, and are fueled by the determination of millions of clients, donors, and supporters like you who know what it takes to stand up and care. No matter what.

We are laser-focused on protecting care for our clients. Our battle cry sums it up: "These doors stay open."

They are open for the young woman who needs emergency contraception, without judgment or delay. For the working parent who needs affordable birth control and cancer screening. And they most definitely will stay open for the high school student who is searching for real talk, and her mom who needs expert and compassionate care.

Rest assured, we are in close conversation with national and statewide partners and allies. We are strategizing, we are organizing, and we are doing all we can to understand the full implications of what might be ahead.

We have been overwhelmed by a flood of support over the past few weeks, and each expression of caring means the world to us. You might also be fielding questions from friends and family about how they can help. [Here are six ways you can support access to reproductive health care and education at Planned Parenthood Northern California.](#)

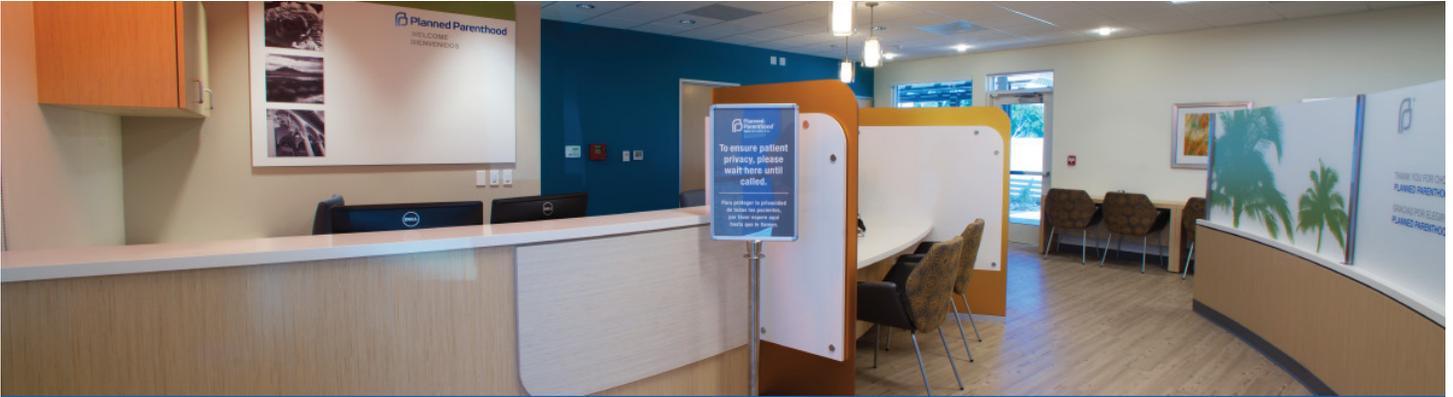
We have prevailed before and we're determined to prevail again. We've never backed down and we won't start now.

Thank you for standing with us and wishing you a wonderful holiday season,



Gilda Gonzales
Interim CEO
Planned Parenthood Northern California

Feature Story



These doors stay open. No matter what.

In the weeks and months to come, we expect the health care and education services that we provide to come under attack from the Trump/Pence administration.

We are more thankful than ever to live in California. Our state has a strong tradition of leadership in sexual and reproductive justice.

That's no accident. We have built a strong movement with broad coalitions, and are heartened by the valor of many California legislators, including California Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León and California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, who issued a [strong statement](#) following the presidential election that included this moving passage:

"California is - and must always be - a refuge of justice and opportunity for people of all walks, talks, ages and aspirations - regardless of how you look, where you live, what language you speak, or who you love.

California has long set an example for other states to follow. And California will defend its people and our progress. We are not going to allow one election to reverse generations of progress at the height of our historic diversity, scientific advancement, economic output, and sense of global responsibility."

We also applaud the [California Legislative Women's Caucus](#) for introducing two resolutions on December 5, the first day of the 2017-2018 Legislative session, to support Planned Parenthood and to issue a challenge to all who would try to eliminate funding for the critical programs and services our clients need.

Two resolutions - one in the State Senate and one in the State Assembly - were introduced concurrently by California Legislative Women's Caucus Chair Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) and Senator Connie Leyva (D-Chino), along with Women's Caucus Vice-Chair Cristina Garcia (D-Bell Gardens) and Assemblymember Autumn Burke (D-Inglewood).

The resolutions are expected to be adopted soon after the Legislature reconvenes in January.

Support from all types of people who live in rural and urban regions, from the Bay Area to Redding and Humboldt, has been overwhelming. We have been humbled to receive flowers, cookies, donations, and heartfelt letters from supporters across our vast 20-county service area.

In the words of one client: "I feel like Planned Parenthood is the best doctor's office a woman can go to. I want to say thank you to every single person that works at any Planned Parenthood for your kindness. Please keep up the great work."

Every year, 155,000 adults and young people across Northern California count on Planned Parenthood Northern California for contraception and reproductive care, STD screenings and treatment, prenatal and primary care and thousands of life-saving cancer screenings. More than 850,000 Californians depend on Planned Parenthood every year.

It will be more important than ever for us to unite as Californians to ensure that our health centers continue to provide care for those who need us most - low-income women, immigrants, people of color, the LGBTQIA community, the uninsured, and more.

What's New

Fourth Generation HIV Tests



We are excited to announce that Planned Parenthood Northern California is now offering the latest generation of HIV test at all of our health centers. The test can be administered just four weeks after exposure and is more sensitive than previous HIV tests. It is a finger-prick test that shows results in 20 minutes.

We have made great strides with HIV testing and treatment but HIV infections remain a persistent problem. We are committed to offering affordable and high-quality care to all our clients that includes the best possible HIV testing, counseling and case management services.

According to the [United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#):

"About 1.2 million people in the United States were living with HIV at the end of 2012, the most recent year for which this information is available. Of those people, about 13%, or 1 in 8, did not know they were infected. If we look at HIV diagnoses by race and ethnicity, we see that African Americans are most affected by HIV. In 2014, African Americans made up only 12%* of the US population but had 44% of all new HIV diagnoses. Hispanic/Latinos are also strongly affected. They made up 17% of the US population but had 23% of all new HIV diagnoses."

Planned Parenthood Northern California was the first Planned Parenthood affiliate in the nation to offer HIV testing as the AIDS crisis emerged. Today, we are proud to offer the latest and most sensitive test available, as well as PEP and PrEP medications to prevent infection with the virus.

New Champion for Reproductive Health and Justice

Now, more than any other time in recent memory, our clients, volunteers, and supporters are counting on support from our friends. Thankfully, some of our friends run for office – and many of them win!

One such stand-out friend is newly elected State Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry. Originally from the small town of Winters, where she most recently served as Mayor, Curry will now represent California's Fourth Assembly District, which includes Colusa, Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties.

We spoke with her about her connection to us as she prepares to assume office.

What does Planned Parenthood mean to you?

I am a lifelong supporter of women's rights and quality women's health care. Paramount among these is the right of a woman to control her own body.

Planned Parenthood's mission is so very crucial to these goals – and especially so at a time when their very right to exist is under real threat from a Republican-controlled Congress.

I plan to stand strongly with Planned Parenthood as these attacks continue and escalate.

Have you had any personal experience with Planned Parenthood?

Yes. As a college student in Chico I went to a Planned Parenthood clinic for routine exams and birth control. At one of those exams they discovered a very large ovarian cyst which resulted in my seeing a physician who was able to remove it, along with portions of my ovaries. Had that not happened, the cyst may have burst and caused enormous, and even life-threatening, problems. So the way I see it, Planned Parenthood saved my life, and is a critical and potentially life-saving service for young and low income women everywhere.



New Champion for Reproductive Health and Justice cont...

How is Planned Parenthood Northern California's mission relevant to the work you plan on doing in the Capitol?

Women's health and women's rights generally are a high priority for me as I enter the legislature. I have been a strong advocate for women through my life and will be a strong advocate for them in the Assembly.

Why is it important to maintain access to safe, affordable family planning and what will you do to protect it in the State Assembly?

We are in a time when families all over the state still struggle to make ends meet, and young people face a more competitive environment than ever before as they try to succeed in a global economy. Safe, reliable and affordable family planning options are critical to young adults and to families and women of various child-bearing ages. In the Assembly, I will take all possible actions to protect these services and guard against efforts to erode what I consider to be basic women's rights.

What You Need to Know about Zika - And Planned Parenthood



The Zika virus can be passed along to humans by infected mosquitoes, by men and women to their sex partners, and from a pregnant mother to her developing fetus. Cases of infection by mosquitoes have climbed steadily in countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in Puerto Rico.

As of December 7, there have been more than [4,500 cases of Zika confirmed in the continental United States](#), according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Approximately 9% of those cases are reported to be in California, all of which were acquired outside the state. An additional 33,838 locally acquired and travel-associated cases have been reported in U.S. Territories.

Family planning is the primary strategy recommended by the CDC to reduce Zika-related pregnancy complications. And it makes sense. With or without Zika, individuals should be empowered to make decisions for themselves and their families, including the decision of whether to have a child, no matter who they are or where they live.

At Planned Parenthood Northern California, we have taken steps to put women and families at the center of our Zika response. We all benefit when every person has the information, health care, and support necessary to prevent unwanted pregnancy, safely end a pregnancy, or carry a pregnancy to term and raise a child.

If you've traveled to an area with active transmission of Zika, or had sex without a condom with someone who traveled to, or lived in, an area with active Zika, you should ask a doctor or nurse about getting tested. Planned Parenthood providers are available to help you decide if you should be tested, and can work with your local health department, if necessary, to determine the best next steps.

No matter your reasons, if you want to know more about your family planning options, our expert providers can help you decide on the best birth control for you. Birth control methods are not one-size-fits-all; different methods have different rates of effectiveness, benefits, risks, side effects, and cost.

As we head into 2017, we hope that public health officials will take a moment to consider the importance of family planning when it comes to Zika and beyond. We are all healthier when family planning is guaranteed for all who want and need it.

Update!

We have heard from many of you that you are interested to learn more about The Women's March on Washington. The event is being organized independently of Planned Parenthood and will take place in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2017. You can find out more information about [the Washington D.C. assembly here](#).

Many other events to protect sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice are being planned in the Bay Area and across Northern California. We encourage all Planned Parenthood supporters to [sign up here to learn about local actions](#). Thank you for your interest in taking action!

Sex Education in the Digital Age



Planned Parenthood is a welcoming place in the real world and it is also a great place where young people can interact with expert educators trained in sexual and reproductive health information and relationships. One of our most exciting resources is our national chat/text program where [Planned Parenthood health educators offer live answers to questions](#) about pregnancy, birth control, emergency contraception, STDs, and abortion by text or chat.

The Planned Parenthood Chat/Text program reaches youth and young adults at urgent moments when worry levels are high. It is designed to answer questions and to link youth to expert care. Best of all, it means young people will get accurate, confidential information that they can use.

Our national colleagues were very pleased to report on their research this November. Planned Parenthood partnered with New York University researchers to conduct a randomized control trial to evaluate the national program. The study included 3,334 sexually active young women between the ages of 15-24. An impressive proportion of those who used the Planned Parenthood website and those who used chat/text went to health centers. Chat/Text users were significantly:

- More likely to obtain reproductive health services:
 - 33 percent of chat/text users sought services within 10 days, and
 - 55 percent sought services within 3 months;
- More likely to engage in dual use of birth control and condoms; and
- More willing to use the most highly effective forms of birth control (an IUD or implant).

We look forward to additional insights on how best to support clients when they have questions. The Chat/Text program is available 7 days a week, and to date has had over 650,000 conversations. Because the intervention focuses on times when people might be worried about pregnancy, STDs, abortion, or birth control failure, it enables young people to access high-quality information and services at the optimum time.

Programs like this one are why Planned Parenthood has been recognized as one of [Rock Health's Top 50 in Digital Health for 2017](#) as the Most Tech-Friendly Provider. We were innovators 100 years ago and we are revolutionizing the way people access reproductive health care and information once again. We continue to look for the most effective ways to deliver education and care on a variety of innovative platforms to reach people who are most in need. If young people feel more comfortable texting than talking, we are ready and willing to meet them there.

Straight from the Source

Planned Parenthood Northern California provides high-quality health care and education services that are affordable and accessible to all and we fight to protect and expand access to care for all people, regardless of income, insurance status, or zip code.

We are always humbled by the thanks we receive from our clients. Here are few recent comments:

"I love coming to Planned Parenthood! The staff are always friendly, competent, and compassionate." **Eureka**

"Planned Parenthood is really awesome. The staff were really nice and friendly. They gave me my birth control shot with no problems. I highly recommend Planned Parenthood to anyone. I will definitely go back to get my shot when it is time for it again. Love Planned Parenthood." **Facebook Post**

"The staff and clinician are very thorough and professional. With sensitive sexual issues, providers must exercise great care to be non-judgmental and compassionate. This clinic does that extremely well and obviously have been trained very well. Kudos!" **Online Appointment**

Cheers and Jeers



A proud moment for clinicians and staff from our San Rafael health center.

Creativity in Clinical Services

Our award-winning staff from our San Rafael health center traveled to the 2016 PPFA National Medical Committee Meeting in November to accept a prestigious national award for creativity in clinical services. The award was presented to clinicians and staff by Cecile Richards, President and CEO of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Our San Rafael center won the Sylvia Clark Award for their outstanding work expanding access to abortion care. The award was established by PPFA and the National Medical Committee in May 2003 to honor the former CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.



Ohio Governor John Kasich vetoed a ban on abortion after six weeks on the same day he signed a 20-week ban on abortion. (John Minchillo/AP)

Ohio Governor Vetoes "Heartbeat" Bill, Signs 20-Week Abortion Ban

Ohio Governor John Kasich, an ardent foe of abortion who has [sought to strip Planned Parenthood of its funding](#), vetoed a measure that would have banned abortion after six weeks of pregnancy and on the same day signed into law a measure to outlaw abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The 20-week ban includes no exception for rape or incest and only gives pregnant people immunity when they are at risk of death or permanent organ damage.

According to Rewire, Kasich [said in a statement](#) that he thought the ban 20-week ban was more constitutionally prudent than the six-week ban, even though 20-week bans have been [found unconstitutional](#) by the courts.

What's the Difference When I Give?

Planned Parenthood Northern California and Planned Parenthood Federation of America

We are often asked what happens when we give to Planned Parenthood Northern California versus the Federation. We wanted to share with you the following guide to avoid any possible confusion.

If you want to give to Planned Parenthood Northern California directly, and have all of your gift go to local services and to bettering the lives of people across our 20 counties from San Francisco to the Oregon border...

then you need to go to our affiliate website (support.ppnorcal.org) where 100% of your donation is directed to health and community services as well as essential education – right here, in Northern California.

If you go to Planned Parenthood Federation of America's national website...

then 50% of your gift will support health services, community service and education here in Northern California and 50% of your gift will also support national advocacy and education efforts.

Two ways to support our mission that protects rights and freedom, no matter what!

Bequest Challenge

To celebrate the national 100th anniversary of Planned Parenthood, and our related Second Century campaign, Planned Parenthood Northern California (PPNorCal) is participating in the national federation's Planned Parenthood Bequest Challenge. For every donor who confirms they've put our affiliate in their will, PPNorCal is eligible for an unrestricted matching gift from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), up to \$25,000 per household.

This is a great opportunity to maximize our donors' generosity as well as to grow our Planned Giving program through co-branded materials and resources.



Digital Movement Building

Planned Parenthood Northern California is proud to actively participate in statewide movement building efforts to recruit new supporters through our Facebook pages, and invite fresh voices to join our local email lists.



Planned Parenthood Northern California

www.ppnorcal.org



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