

the advocate

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Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts

Out in Front: PPLM Acts to Protect Women's Health Care

This summer, two U.S. Supreme Court decisions mobilized PPLM and thousands of its supporters. On June 26, the Court struck down a 2007 Massachusetts law that established a 35-foot protest-free buffer zone to protect the safety of patients and staff at reproductive health care centers. Marty Walz, President and CEO of PPLM, then serving as a state representative in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, was one of the authors of that law.

In response to the decision, PPLM, along with state and legislative leaders, took swift action to draft *An Act to Promote Public Safety and Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities in Massachusetts*. On July 30, Governor Deval Patrick signed the bill into law, signaling a major victory for women's access to health care.

The Safe Access law ensures that new appropriate protections are in place for those seeking access to reproductive health services. The new law allows police to disperse protesters who are substantially impeding access to a health center. Protesters must stay at least 25 feet from the center's entrances for up to eight hours after



PPLM's President and CEO Marty Walz joined Attorney General Martha Coakley, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, Boston City Councilor at Large Ayanna Pressley, and other women's health champions in Boston on July 8 to rally in support of the *Safe Access Act*. Image courtesy of Olga Khvan.

dispersal or be subject to a misdemeanor charge. Under the new law, protesters who block cars from entering or leaving a health center's parking lot will also face charges. The new law also expands the attorney general's enforcement authority under the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act.

In this issue of *The Advocate*, Marty Walz reflects on recent challenges and writes about PPLM's leadership

in the fight to protect women's safe access to affordable health care.

Join PPLM in the movement to protect women's health! For more information visit our advocacy website at www.pplmvotes.org.

viewpoint

Ninety-eight years after Margaret Sanger opened her first birth control clinic, twin setbacks at the U.S. Supreme Court in June made for a demoralizing summer.

How is it that we are still waging battles at the Supreme Court and in so many state legislatures around access to birth control? How is it that millions of women in this country struggle to obtain safe and affordable abortions 40 years after *Roe v. Wade*?

This isn't the backdrop we anticipated for Planned Parenthood's centennial celebration.

I'm not one to sit around and bemoan our fate. While I detest the status quo, I keep three things in mind. First, we've made substantial progress in 98 years, which is worth remembering in the dark moments. As Martin Luther King, Jr. famously reminded us, the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice.

Second, we must pull on that arc and bend it faster. With your support, that's exactly what Planned Parenthood does. We don't sit back and wait for good things to happen; we take action to make things happen.

Let me give an example. Thanks in no small part to Planned Parenthood's advocacy efforts, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires health insurance plans to provide mammograms and birth control without a co-payment. That is an extraordinary advance for women's access to health care (a point that often gets lost in the disputes about the ACA). Fewer women will die of breast cancer and women will have fewer unintended pregnancies because of the ACA. That truly is bending the arc.

Third, we don't accept defeat. Just four weeks after the Supreme Court struck down our state's buffer zone law, we teamed up with Governor Deval Patrick, Attorney General Martha Coakley, and legislative leaders to draft the Safe Access law. We harnessed the outpouring of support, successfully leading a coalition whose work resulted in a new law in one month's time. While the new law doesn't give us

anywhere near the protection of the buffer zone, our swift response sends a strong message: knock us down and we get right back up to fight.

Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts can lead the way for our nation. We have the opportunity to show the rest of the country that it's possible to build a broad consensus that everyone deserves access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care, from birth control to abortion, from cancer screenings to the testing and treatment of men and women with sexually transmitted infections.

Make no mistake about it, we will have more setbacks. In the face of those setbacks, we forge ahead. We pull on the arc and bend it faster. Here is a sampling of how we're doing that:

Through our Sex Ed Matters campaign, we mobilize support for comprehensive sexuality education in schools so teens are empowered with the information and resources they need to make smart choices, including the delay of sex and the correct and consistent use of contraception when they have sex.

Through our Teen Council and college campus organizing chapters, we train the next generation of leaders, ensuring that they are ready to step forward and protect their access to health care and their right to make their own personal medical decisions.

And through the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts, we engage and edu-



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advocate spotlight:

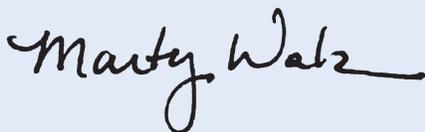
Dan Ginsburg

cate our supporters to elect people who are committed to protecting women's access to health care and to defeat those who are determined to interfere in private medical decisions. Through both our legislative and electoral initiatives, we cultivate a strong coalition of elected leaders who will work with us to shape public opinion in support of our mission.

Beyond Massachusetts, our Planned Parenthood colleagues aren't giving up, no matter what the legislatures in Texas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and so many other places are doing. They're building health centers to comply with new laws restricting access to abortion. The coalition formed by the extraordinary Moral Mondays campaign in North Carolina is redefining the quest for social, economic, and racial justice, with Planned Parenthood in partnership with the local NAACP. And in Planned Parenthood health centers across the country, we are serving thousands of newly insured women, men, and teens who are taking responsibility for their health and well-being.

As I reflect on this summer's setbacks to women's reproductive rights, and on the numerous setbacks we've experienced across the country since the Tea Party wave in 2010, I think about how important Planned Parenthood is during these perilous times, slowing down our opponents and creating the world we seek.

We could never bend the arc of the moral universe without the commitment and support of so many who help us pull it toward justice for women and their reproductive rights. Thank you for pulling with us!



Martha M. Walz



Growing up with a father and an uncle who shared an OB/GYN practice in Massachusetts, Dan Ginsburg was aware from an early age of the need to protect women's rights to quality health care. As the newly elected chair of PPLM's board of directors, he has the opportunity to act on his convictions.

Dan is president of DG Healthcare Associates, a firm that partners with health care organizations to improve quality and value, driving growth and bottom-line performance. His distinguished career in health care has included leadership positions at Stanford Hospital and Clinics, Massachusetts General Physicians Organization (MGPO), Massachusetts General Hospital, and The Boston Consulting Group.

Dan articulates very specific goals for his tenure as board chair: "I want to work with the leadership to support the implementation of our three-year strategic plan, which will strengthen our financial base and allow us to continue advancing our mission. I want to ensure that our board is operating as effectively as possible in support of the mission, including extending our oversight of clinical quality, patient service, compliance, and risk."

Most recently, in the light of U.S. Supreme Court decisions, Dan has added to his list the need to ensure that all patients can enter health care facilities without fear of harassment or intimidation.

With his deep knowledge of the health care field and his strong commitment to PPLM, Dan is ready to roll up his sleeves. "PPLM does amazing work," he says. "I'm honored to help it do even more."

"PPLM is actively building new skills and forging new partnerships that will enable it to thrive in the health care environment of the future."

from PPLM's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan

program highlights



Asking Our Own Questions

It's been more than ten years since PPLM launched its Boston research center. Now with a staff of four, the busy center is taking the lead in improving patient care through numerous research projects in reproductive health.

At PPLM, nearly all projects are investigator-initiated. "We ask our own questions," says Dr. Alisa Goldberg, PPLM's director of clinical research and training. "Many of our studies are proposed, designed, and conducted entirely by PPLM-affiliated professionals."

"We set our own agendas. Our independent work at PPLM fills a tremendous gap in the field."

Investigator-initiated research allows PPLM to focus on patients' well-being and on the quality of care delivered – a focus that's uncommon in today's market-driven health care industry. Real women in real time will benefit from current

studies on individualized pain management; access to birth control at the time of medication abortion; and more efficient post-abortion testing.

The achievements of PPLM's research program rest partly on the work of its Family Planning Fellows. The Harvard Family Planning Fellowship, a collaboration between PPLM, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the Harvard School of Public Health, provides clinical and research training to physicians who have completed a residency in OB/GYN. Each fellow completes an original research project with support from the Society of Family Planning, a nonprofit dedicated to improving sexual and reproductive health.

Since 2003, nine fellows have worked at PPLM, and some have stayed on to become PPLM physicians who provide clinical services and continue to explore best practices and broad options for women's health. Says Dr. Goldberg, "We set our own agendas. Our independent work at PPLM fills a tremendous gap in the field."

Teens on the Rise

The *Get Real* Teen Council (GRTC), part of PPLM's acclaimed curriculum *Get Real: Comprehensive Sex Education that Works*, empowers teenagers to educate their peers, families, and communities about human sexuality and healthy decision making. Participation in the Teen Council inspires teens to use their voices to advocate for just and positive sexual attitudes and policies.

The current GRTC consists of two groups of tenth- to twelfth-grade students from Metro-Boston and central Massachusetts – students who are passionate about being sexual health educators and leaders in their communities. During the weekend of September 5 to 7, they came together for

GRTC's annual training retreat at the Sargent Outdoor Learning Center in Hancock, NH. They learned about *Get Real* curriculum sexual health topics, classroom facilitation, and presentation skills, and joined in a social justice/diversity workshop. The lively, team-building retreat culminated in a high ropes course, including a zip line!

GRTC's popularity and effectiveness have led to its inclusion in *Get Real's* national expansion initiative. Look for more news about *Get Real* in the next *Advocate*, and find out more about the program at www.getrealeducation.org.



support pplm

Join The Annual Fund!

We're proud to announce the launch of the first-ever Annual Fund of PPLM, a broad initiative that will bolster PPLM's core commitments to safe, affordable health care, innovative education, and advocacy.

The new fundraising program will build on our many achievements and advance our groundbreaking work. Every dollar contributed to The Annual Fund will be utilized to immediately sustain and strengthen our highest priorities.

Join us today! Your gift of any size makes a difference as we respond to current needs and take on new challenges. Donors who make major financial investments in PPLM's work will receive special recognition as members of the President's Society (gifts of \$1,000 or more) and the Commonwealth Council (gifts of \$25,000 or more). For more information, contact Claire at 617.616.1600 x1784, development@pplm.org. Thank you!



Health Care without Judgment. Delivery of comprehensive, affordable sexual and reproductive health services to over 30,000 patients annually at seven busy health centers throughout Massachusetts, ranging from confidential counseling to life-saving cancer screenings.



Education that Works. Age-appropriate, medically accurate, innovative school and professional training programs that offer men, women, and youth the skills they need to build safe, healthy futures.



Action with Purpose. Thoughtful, targeted advocacy that helps ensure access to safe, affordable sexual and reproductive health care for all, and promotes sexual health as a personal and public health priority in Massachusetts and beyond.

“PPLM’s new Annual Fund is a great step forward for everyone committed to ensuring safe, affordable sexual and reproductive health care in Massachusetts and beyond. I’m especially pleased that the fund will acknowledge those who make major financial investments in our work, setting our sights ever higher.”

Alicia Abad
Chair, Development Committee
Board of Directors, Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts



faces & places

The Planned Parenthood family came out in support of health care, education, and advocacy in the late spring at lively house parties in communities stretching from Beacon Hill to Worcester and Andover.

Most recently, our community welcomed high-profile visitors to Boston. On September 10, we joined author Robie Harris, a longtime PPLM friend and supporter, to mark the 20th anniversary of her landmark book, *It's Perfectly Normal*, and the 15th anniversary of the publication of *It's So Amazing!* The following week, board members, staff, and friends welcomed PPFA President Cecile Richards to Boston during a visit to PPLM's health center and at several events.



Images: **1.** Host Barbara Hostetter and PPFA Board Member Naomi Aberly at the Boston House Party. **2.** PPLM President and CEO Marty Walz and former PPLM CEOs Nicki Nichols Gamble and Dianne Luby. **3.** Co-chairs Landis Becker and Brace Young, Marty Walz, and Co-chairs Lynne and Alexis Goltra at the Weston House Party. **4.** Author Robie Harris and T. Berry Brazelton, M.D. **5.** Host and former PPLM Board Chair Ilene Greenberg, Marty Walz and PPFA President and CEO Cecile Richards. **6.** Host and PPLM Board Member Patti Kraft with Co-chair and PPLM Board Member Alison Packard at the Brookline/Chestnut Hill House Party. Images courtesy of Natasha Moustache Photography and Helene Norton-Russell Photography.



Join us!

Support PPLM in your community by attending our upcoming events! For tickets and information about these and other gatherings, please email events@pplm.org.

Dedham-Dover-Westwood: October 30

Milton: November 6

Cambridge: December 4

Lincoln: January 14