

# CHOICE Remarks

WINTER 2022

## Preparing for a Post-Roe World by Chelly Hegan, UHPP President/CEO

Across the country, we have seen relentless attacks on abortion, abortion access, and unprecedented laws that defy logic. Still, as we wait for a ruling from the Supreme Court on a direct challenge to Roe in Mississippi, it seems unreal that we may very soon experience a country where one's rights, autonomy and basic freedoms will be radically different depending on what state they live in. Since the appointment of Justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Barrett this scenario has become real for our supporters, and while we have been planning for this for a long time, **only 33% of Americans believe that Roe is under direct threat.**

As of today, far too many people in our country have lost—or are losing—their constitutional right to abortion. More restrictive laws, mandatory waiting periods, travel roadblocks, and financial barriers are in place across the country. But this is not new; this fight has been building for decades, and this fight will never end because there are some people and policymakers who want to control women and people of color. People who do not believe you are a full citizen if you are poor if you live in a rural community or if you are gender nonconforming.

As we wait for the Supreme Court to render a verdict, which is not expected until spring, people in Texas STILL have no access to abortion. We are grateful that NY passed the Reproductive Health Act, but it is a small comfort when we imagine what people are going through in other states around the country. All we can do right now is to make sure that we are as strong as we can be and ready to serve. We must fight loudly and proudly to protect this essential service; please consider supporting our Emergency Fund today. **We cannot back down, and we hope you will raise your voice – join us at rallies, amplify our message on social media, talk to your family, your friends, and your legislators.**



“The right to safe and legal abortion has been the law of the land for nearly 50 years and is now very much a part of the fabric of our country. Generations have grown up under this precedent and yet here we are, with a fight on our hands. It’s about controlling bodies. It’s about turning back the clock and putting people back in their ‘less than place.’ These are the stakes, but we are not about to let the clock turn back. We’ve come too far to let that happen.”

We thank **NY 19 Representative Antonio Delgado** from NY, **UHPP’s 2022 Advocate for Choice** for his continued support protecting access to abortion and as a co-sponsors of the Women’s Health Protection Act.

## Planned Parenthood Day of Action

Join UHPP at Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts’ (PPESA) Virtual Day of Action 2022 on **Tuesday, March 8th**. UHPP will also host a **Lunch and Learn** on the 2022 Legislative Agenda and preparing for lobby visits on Wednesday, February 23. Please register online at [uhpp.org](http://uhpp.org).



## No Ordinary Life: **Tobby Cassuto**

When we asked Tobby Cassuto, a longtime supporter and advocate for UHPP to share her experiences, she did not want us to make a fuss. "What I do is just ordinary," she said. Still, to us, Tobby is anything but ordinary. She is a lifelong learner who reads prolifically, discusses ideas and politics with friends and fellow advocates, and works tirelessly for causes and candidates she believes in. As a young woman in New York City, Tobby was involved in Planned Parenthood and the fight for abortion access, but felt she could make an even bigger impact in a smaller community. Since moving to Columbia County almost 30 years ago, Tobby has brought many people together to support UHPP through parties, events, and a strong network of advocates. As a Leadership Circle member she inspires others to get involved in any way they can. Tobby feels that all people deserve to have full control over their bodies and lives, and that Planned Parenthood makes that possible. To ensure that future generations can continue to count on Planned Parenthood, Tobby has chosen to include us in her estate plans. If you are interested in leaving a legacy like Tobby, contact Anne at [anne@uhpp.org](mailto:anne@uhpp.org) to learn more about how to include UHPP in your estate plans.



## Birth Control & More From Your Phone: **Planned Parenthood Direct App**



UHPP launched PPDirect, a mobile health care app that allows patients to receive birth control pills through at-home delivery to people at home and UTI treatment delivered to local pharmacies, without ever having to go into a health center for an appointment. Patients just need to download the free PPDirect app to their Android or iPhone. The links can be found at [uhpp.org](http://uhpp.org).

"The app saved me from going without my normal birth control for several weeks. I hadn't realized until I had two pills, left that there were no more refills and the soonest appointment I could get was weeks away." -Planned Parenthood patient.

## Join our Leadership Circle

We are so proud to have over 300 Leadership Circle members taking a public stand for Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood. The Leadership Circle is a group of individuals from all backgrounds that give \$1,000 or more annually to UHPP and strongly believe in reproductive freedom and access for all. While abortion is currently safe in New York thanks to the Reproductive Health Act, we must fight to protect access for everyone, regardless of where they live. By joining the LC, you will help us deliver essential services to all who need us and demonstrate that our community cares, no matter what.

**For more information and to join our LC visit [uhpp.org](http://uhpp.org)!**



855 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206  
[uhpp.org](http://uhpp.org) | 518.434.5678

804 Columbia St.  
Hudson, NY 12534

120 Hoosick Street  
Troy, NY 12180