

## EVENTS

### The Rosé Resistance - New Mexico

On August 24, Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico (PPVNM) supporters gathered in Albuquerque. Alongside Congresswoman Xochitl Torres Small, PPVNM activists stood and resisted the current state of access to reproductive health care in the U.S., learning how PPVNM continues to protect the access and reproductive rights of all New Mexicans.

### The Rosé Resistance – Colorado

During the first half of 2019 we saw a deliberate attack on access to safe and legal abortion care across the country. Planned Parenthood Votes Colorado, joined by Senator Julie Gonzales, Representative Kyle Mullica, and Aurora City Councilwoman Crystal Murillo, gathered June 9 at Infinite Monkey Theorem in Aurora to resist these dangerous and unconstitutional bans and to ensure Colorado remains a safe haven for abortion care.

### Boulder Breakfast – Colorado

On June 19 over 100 supporters came out to the beautiful Boulder Jewish Community Center and raised nearly \$10,000 for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountain's services. This wonderful event honored PPRM Clinical Research Coordinator, Ann Firstenberg, for her 34 years of dedication and service.

### Champions of Choice – Colorado

PPVC friends gathered again on August 15 in Denver to honor three reproductive rights champions and to hear from celebrated attorney Kathryn Kolbert about the deliberate attacks we've seen on our reproductive rights across the country.

Along with honoring our 2019 Champions, State Representatives Yadira Caraveo and Susan Lontine, and Senate Majority Leader Steve Fenberg, donors raised over \$81,000.

### Host Your Own Event

In addition to PPRM-hosted events, generous supporters of PPRM across the region have hosted or supported a variety of successful gatherings this year, raising thousands of dollars (see cover story). If you're interested in hosting your own, contact [events.development@pprm.org](mailto:events.development@pprm.org).



Xochitl Torres Small



Ann Firstenberg

Kathryn Kolbert

**Save the Date  
New Mexico**  
Mark your calendars  
and stay tuned for more  
information on Toast of  
the Town in Santa Fe on  
February 5, 2020, followed  
by Breakfast of Champions  
on February 6.



**7155 EAST 38TH AVENUE  
DENVER, COLORADO 80207**

### Want Less Mail?

Our Dialogue newsletter is now available via email. If you would prefer an electronic version of this newsletter, please send your email address to [info.development@pprm.org](mailto:info.development@pprm.org).

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### Easy ways to give to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

Are you familiar with AmazonSmile? It's a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization (including us!) every time you shop, at no cost to you. Visit [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to learn more and get started.

### Mark your Calendars!

Save the date for two exciting events in Santa Fe: Toast of the Town on Wednesday, February 5 and Breakfast of Champions on Thursday, February 6.

### Want to make your gift go further?

Interested in being a #GivingTuesday or Colorado Gives Day matching donor and inspiring others to give? Ask how by emailing [info.development@pprm.org](mailto:info.development@pprm.org).



## PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS' FALL 2019 DIALOGUE



Chef Theo Adley

### Hospitality and Solidarity

Chef Theo Adley responded to the national attacks and surrounding states' restrictions on sexual health care by organizing a bake sale to support Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

"This was a demonstration of solidarity from the Colorado hospitality industry's support of women's rights, reproductive rights, and fundamental human rights," said Theo, the Populist's executive chef, "It was a moment of tremendous empowerment for all who were there."

Theo's inspiration to support Planned Parenthood comes from his two daughters who he describes as fierce, brave, and extremely intelligent. After Alabama passed legislation that would make almost all abortions illegal, Theo's anger and activist nature compelled him to do something to support access to sexual health care. After hearing about another Planned Parenthood bake sale in New York City, he began connecting with other restaurants, cafes, and bakeries in Denver's hospitality industry to organize Denver's own event to support and show solidarity for Planned Parenthood.

The enthusiasm among Denver's hospitality industry to support the bake sale was overwhelming. Every business Theo spoke with jumped in to support the event and participate. He was surprised with the overwhelming

support as he ran out of space for all who wanted to participate and donate.

"The support for the bake sale showed that we are all in this together, and the hospitality industry is not going to sit by as inherent human rights are violated. Showing support for Planned Parenthood resonated with Denver's restaurants, cafes, and bakeries as an opportunity to extend our role in the hospitality industry beyond our walls."

The bake sale was held at the popular RiNo restaurant, The Populist, on June 2nd. Over twenty business participated and donated a wide variety of baked goods, drinks, and snacks. The baked goods sold out in just over an hour, and chefs had to get creative as people had lined up around the block. It was an emotional event for all who attended because people wanted to be there together, they wanted to give and donate, and they wanted to experience the connection and solidarity to support Planned Parenthood.

After only expecting to raise a few thousand dollars, the bake sale raised \$25,000 and Theo is already planning another event and looking to find a larger venue. Once again, he is expecting open arms from the hospitality industry and the community. The support and solidarity shown through the bake sale inspires and reminds us that we are in this together, and we will continue to work hard to protect access to sexual and reproductive health care no matter what may stand in our way.

## HEALTH CARE

### Denver Post: How we stop the degradation of women's health care

– Op Ed by Vicki Cowart, September 2019

Recently, a young couple drove five hours from Casper, Wyoming to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains' Boulder health center for a medication abortion. The young woman thought the medication was available over the counter and hadn't made an appointment. While we had no appointments available, we made room to see her since they had made the long drive from Wyoming.

We went over the medication, the process and the consent, and answered all of her questions. When it came to the cost of the medication, we screened the woman, whose name is not being used for privacy reasons, and her partner for all the grants we have available. Between the funds we raise for Wyoming patients and our Justice Fund, their remaining balance was \$167.

When we told the patient about the grants she would receive and her remaining balance, the patient quietly said, "Yes we can pay \$167– we'll skip eating today."

So, true to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains' values, our health center manager told the patient there would be no charge for the balance and we included a prescription for birth control and a pack of pills. The patient received abortion care and contraception free of charge because of the generous support we receive from donors, meaning the couple had money for gas and food as they drove the five hours back home.

Colorado often brushes off the discussion about abortion restrictions because voters have rejected multiple personhood proposals at the ballot box and may believe somehow "it can't happen here." But it is happening elsewhere, and the impacts are already being felt locally.

Today, there is a man-made public health crisis on the national stage that we haven't seen in more than a generation. I do not use the word crisis lightly. Eighteen states passed 44 bills restricting abortion care this year. In 18-24 months, challenges to Roe v. Wade could leave 25 million American women of reproductive age with no access to abortion care.

The need for abortion care will still exist. The need does not go away. But women will have to travel farther, take time off from work, arrange childcare, be away from home, and spend more money to access it. The hardest hit will be rural women, women of color, young women and women with limited resources.

Last year, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains – with health centers in Colorado, New Mexico, and Southern Nevada – saw patients from 37 states. There are days when the parking lot of our Albuquerque health center is mostly full of cars with Texas license plates, reflecting the reality of health care after political restrictions closed down reproductive health centers in that state. That's a five- to eight hour drive for those patients.



“**Western women already face long drive times for health services, and they're getting longer. As states – mostly in the middle of the country – degrade their responsibility to provide safe, legal health care to women, Colorado and other states will strengthen efforts to provide those services.**”

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## HEALTH CARE, ADVOCACY AND ACTION

Talented and courageous leaders are strategically planning patient support that includes travel, housing and financial assistance to those who need to look outside their community for abortion care. Web-based diagnostic and medical support for patients will decrease the need for travel in some cases. We are preparing for an influx of patients who need care here and elsewhere, often later in pregnancy because the lack of local options delays their ability to get that care.

We are committed to serving our patients with state-of-the-art health care. One thing hasn't changed in our 103 years... Planned Parenthood is committed to high-quality health care with open doors and no judgment – no matter where our patients come from.

### Meeting the needs of our rural communities

Research shows that patients from rural areas experience the greatest disparities when seeking reproductive health services. These are often our highest-need communities with some of the most limited number of available providers. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women cited that women, aged 18-44 years, living in small towns or rural areas, planned less for contraception and were more likely to have had an unplanned pregnancy than women in more urban areas.

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains is working actively to address these issues. To meet the need of these underserved areas, some of our health centers now offer access to a wide range of reproductive health services, including birth control, sexually transmitted infection screenings and treatment, and basic health screenings through site-to-site telemedicine. By using this remote patient-to-provider technology we can reduce overhead expenses and see more patients. With your support, we can expand access via telemedicine and help eliminate this shortage of care.

In May we also launched a research study to provide medication abortion care directly to patients. Eligible patients consult with medical staff over the phone, get an ultrasound and any necessary lab work from their local providers, meet with a PPRM provider over secure, private video, and receive their abortion medications in the mail.

Additionally, this past April PPRM began serving patients via the PP Direct app. This app enables patients to receive birth control and UTI consultations online with treatment mailed to them or sent directly to their local pharmacy, expanding care even further!

### Public Affairs in Colorado

Thanks to the leadership of our pro-reproductive and sexual health majorities in the House and Senate, Governor Polis, and your incredible support, abstinence-only sex education is now prohibited in our public schools, consent-based comprehensive sex education is mandated, insurance is more affordable, equal pay for equal work is law, and higher education institutions must publish and follow better policies to support sexual assault survivors.

Colorado's first cohort of school districts is already receiving funding to teach comprehensive, medically accurate sex education. This bill requires that sex education classes include lessons on consent, are inclusive of LGBTQ+ students, do not use stigma, shame, or gender stereotypes, and, if schools are teaching about pregnancy outcomes, the lessons must include unbiased information about all options, including abortion care. The bill also provides \$1 million in funding and ensures the committee overseeing the grant includes a youth representative, representatives of organizations serving LGBTQ+ youth, intersex folks, sexual assault survivors, youth of color, immigrants, educators, and school nurses.

### Public Affairs in Nevada

Before the current administration's restrictions on Title X funding, many legislators in Nevada were championing the fight to protect funding. You can thank Senators Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen, Attorney General Aaron Ford, and Governor Steve Sisolak for standing up for access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care for all. Their work positively impacts our patients' ability to access health care.

During the 80th legislative session, Nevada state legislators passed two key bills that would significantly improve access to reproductive health care. Senate Bill 94 will increase funding for family planning services by \$6 million dollars over our state's biennium budget. This was championed by Governor Sisolak and fulfills a promise he made during the 2019 State of the State Address. Additionally, thanks to our partners at NARAL Pro-Choice Nevada Senate Bill 179 also passed, known as the Trust Nevada Women Act which would further protect Nevadans' access to safe, legal abortion.

Throughout the entirety of the legislative session, we were on the road with The Feminist Roadshow and our partners at NARAL Pro-Choice Nevada. We took advocates from Las Vegas to Carson City a number of times via bus for the amazing opportunity to meet and lobby their legislators about the issues they care about most.

## ADVOCACY, ACTION, AND EDUCATION

### Public Affairs in New Mexico

New Mexico is beyond proud of the work we accomplished in the last Legislative Session. We fought to decriminalize abortion and were able to pass a bill for Contraceptive Equity, which allows for citizens across the state to have expanded access to birth control. People will now be able to take 6 months of birth control home at a time, a major win in a state where many people live over 3+ hours from the closest pharmacy.

Together with our fierce partners across the state, we brought over 976 advocates to the capitol. These amazing and dedicated supporters drove a total of 195,736 miles to get to Santa Fe from all 33 counties, where they gave 164 powerful and impactful testimonials. Organizers across the state rallied activists who made and sent 6,793 calls and emails to legislators. But our work is far from over: we know that New Mexican families deserve access to a full range of reproductive health care, including abortion care, and we have fought and will continue fighting for those rights into 2020.

### Rainbow Line

The Responsible Sex Education Institute (RSEI) at PPRM has been in the business of providing sexual health and education information over text lines for nearly a decade, answering questions for young people, parents, and youth-serving adults. ICYC (In Case You're Curious) started as a sexual health text line for youth and our platform has been growing ever since.

Launched earlier this year, Rainbow Line is a text line created specifically for LGBTQ+ individuals. This launch is another way our services can be intentional about meeting the needs of the communities we proudly serve.

To access Rainbow Line, text **BLUE** to **57890**. You will receive a confirmation text. Text your questions whenever you have them, and you will receive a response within 24 hours.

### In Case You're Curious

Over the last year, the Responsible Sex Education Institute team compiled the most common and interesting questions we've received through our confidential text line, In Case You're Curious (ICYC). We took these questions and our expert answers and turned it into a book! *In Case You're Curious: Questions about Sex from Young People with Answers from the Experts* is another way for the educators at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains to reach young people who have sexual health questions. Funds from this book go directly to PPRM's education programs. This is another example of how PPRM's innovative ideas expand access outside the walls of our health centers and beyond our state lines. The book is available for purchase now through Amazon.

