



PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER TEXAS: April Connections

Welcome to the April edition of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas' monthly newsletter. As a valued supporter, we would like to share the latest updates on the work you make possible at Planned Parenthood. We have also included important action alerts and upcoming events.

April is STI Awareness Month

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are common and can cause negative health outcomes if left untreated. Many STIs have few symptoms so routine testing and treatment is important.



Texas ranks 7th highest in HIV rates, and also ranks above the national rates for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis. (2019, cdc.gov)

50%

1 in 2 sexually active young people in the US will contract a sexually transmitted infection (STI) by age 25 - and most won't know it.

\$150

Prevents sexually transmitted infections through testing and treatment for 1 patient.

Our most common services provided are:



Birth control to help Texans plan and space their pregnancies.



Testing and treatment for STIs, HIV tests, and PrEP and PEP.



Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

A NEWS CONNECTION

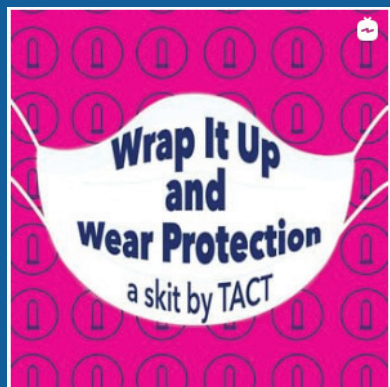
A Texas court ruled that Gov. Greg Abbott can ban Planned Parenthood health centers from serving Texans enrolled in Medicaid in Texas. This decision prevents 8,000 low-income patients, who rely on Planned Parenthood for essential healthcare services, from receiving care at our health centers and with limited options for healthcare as they face the ongoing challenges of the COVID pandemic and recovery from the winter storm and energy blackout.

TAKE ACTION & SAVE THE DATE APRIL 1ST

10 years ago, the Texas Legislature dismantled the statewide family planning program and reduced funding statewide by two thirds. This political goal excluded Planned Parenthood health centers from receiving federal and state funding for family planning services. As a result, tens of thousands of Texans lost access to healthcare and birth control. We are pleased to share that a bill filed in the Texas Legislature, the Free Choice of Provider Act, (HB 3825/SB 1722), would remove the restrictions that prevent Planned Parenthood health centers from participating in Texas' family planning programs. Support the Free Choice of Provider Act and learn more at a hearing on the bill hosted by Planned Parenthood on April 1.

PREVENTIVE CARE FOR LONG TERM HEALTH

Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is an important strategy for protecting reproductive health in the long term according to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). Unfortunately, routine testing is infrequent, with less than a third of at-risk women receiving recommended STI screenings. If untreated, STIs can lead to negative health outcomes including pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, infertility, and an increased susceptibility to HIV according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With your generous support, Planned Parenthood patients can access affordable, preventive healthcare services that may not be financially available to them otherwise, including STI testing and treatment.



TACT: WRAP IT UP AND WEAR PROTECTION!

TeenAge Communication Theatre (TACT) is a performance group that allows high school students in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to perform peer-to-peer outreach on sexual health issues important to teens. A skit was written and performed by TACT teens to educate their peers on:

- How STIs are transmitted
- That anyone who has unprotected sex is at risk for an STI
- How to prevent STIs
- STI testing and treatment at Planned Parenthood health centers

The TACT skit parallels STI prevention with Covid-19 infection prevention and the importance of wearing a mask.

You have made Amplify Austin a huge success for Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas!

#4 Rank of Planned Parenthood in number of donations received out of 683 nonprofits participating

\$1,000 Power Hour winner during Amplify 2021

\$100,016 In donations to Planned Parenthood from Amplify Austin donors



773 donors chose to contribute to Planned Parenthood

WAYS TO GIVE

How can you support Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and the patients we serve who rely on much-needed healthcare services? Make a meaningful gift to continue and expand our STI services.

Have you considered making a planned gift to continue the legacy you have made possible for thousands of Planned Parenthood patients, students, and parents? For more information on how you may include Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas in your estate plan, contact us at (214) 254-3017 or development@ppgt.org.

Your gift of:

- **\$1,000** empowers 5 teens with honest, accurate sex education
- **\$650** offers 2 patients peace of mind with pre- (PrEP) or post- (PEP) exposure HIV preventive medication
- **\$250** keeps communities healthy through the distribution of 1,250 condoms
- **\$150** reduces sexually transmitted infections through testing and treatment for 1 patient

If you have a question or if you want to know more, please contact the Development Office at (214) 254-3017 or email us at development@ppgt.org.

