



Together, we made history.

PPNC President & CEO, JoAnn D. Smith with New York State colleagues in Albany for the passage of the Reproductive Health Act

I've been waiting 12 years to pen this article – a piece that celebrates the passage of milestone legislation in New York State that protects, preserves and advances reproductive rights. For 12 years, we've had to put our highest hopes aside as the conservative majority in the New York State (NYS) Senate refused to support key bills that would ensure that New York lived up to its reputation as a beacon for reproductive rights for those who live here, and a safe haven for those who do not.

But today, everything is different. On January 22, 2019 (the 46th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision) both houses of the NYS Legislature made history by passing: The **Reproductive Health Act (RHA)**, which codifies the tenets of *Roe* in state law and positions New York as a "Care State," a place to which people from other states can travel to access legal and safe abortion care; the **Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (CCCA)**, which ensures equitable and affordable contraception; and the **Boss Bill**, which prevents employers from retaliating against employees based on their personal reproductive health care decisions. *[Continued]*

"Abortion is health care, and finally we have a law in NYS that reflects that. With a targeted erosion of these rights on the federal level, and across the country, the RHA ensures that patients have access to the health care they need and deserve – without having to leave the state, or carry a pregnancy that threatens their health or is not viable."

- NANCY O'KEEFE,
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
OF HEALTH SERVICES

[Feature continued]

Together, the RHA, CCCA and Boss Bill enshrine our state's values, and our refusal to turn back the clock on reproductive rights! And we couldn't have accomplished any of these victories without your tireless support.

These historic and sweeping changes are truly cause for celebration and couldn't have come at a more critical time. At this very moment, we are facing attacks, two-fold, which make the passage of the RHA all the more significant.

Any day now, we are expecting the Trump-Pence administration's dangerous "gag rule" to drop. This harmful rule would block people from accessing care at Planned Parenthood health centers, and strip Title X (the nation's family planning program) funding away from health providers who provide or refer for abortion care – even though funding is already restricted from being used for abortion services. This rule, which would bar medical providers from telling patients all of their options, is both medically and morally unethical. Of course, Planned Parenthood would never withhold critical information from our patients, and so we would not be able to continue to participate in the Title X program.

Equally alarming, *Roe v. Wade* is at immediate risk. As you may have heard in his State of the Union address, just weeks ago, the President alluded to his plans to roll back access to abortion – emboldening states to challenge access to safe and legal abortion. And while the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) narrowly upheld a law protecting abortion access in Louisiana (no thanks to Justice Kavanaugh), there are currently 16 cases just steps away from the Supreme Court that could potentially eviscerate or overturn *Roe*.

As you can see, we live in a world of stark contrasts: while we usher in the dawn of New York's new progressive possibilities, we continue to grapple with escalating nation-wide attacks on reproductive freedom. This reality underscores exactly why we must remain stronger than ever and continue the drumbeat of our advocacy.

To this end, on March 12th, we'll be returning to Albany for our Annual Day of Action, where we will advocate for NY to support family planning funding in anticipation of the "gag rule" and cuts to Title X, and continue to ask for advances that support maternal health, access to comprehensive sex education and much more. 

Click here to learn more about:

- NY's new position as a "Care State"
- RHA
- CCCA
- Boss Bill
- What New Yorkers can expect to change

[CLICK HERE](#)

**CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR
FREE SPOT ON OUR BUS TO ALBANY
FOR OUR 2019 DAY OF ACTION
ON MARCH 12TH!**

Cutting-edge Innovation

PPNC is not only known for providing compassionate, affordable services, but also for being on the cutting edge of high-quality health care and innovation. Indeed, our HIV programs are the perfect example of our being on the forefront of medical advancements, and include: the provision of PrEP – an HIV prevention medication; rapid testing in our health centers and our mobile medical unit, the Plan Van; and now, thanks to special funding from the AIDS institute, expanded outreach in at-risk communities.

Recognizing the excellence of PPNC’s work in HIV testing and treatment, as well as our established rapport in the communities we serve, in late 2018, the AIDS Institute and NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) approached PPNC with dedicated funding to expand our work here across Long Island. With these additional resources, PPNC was able to hire a new HIV High Impact Prevention and Surveillance Program Coordinator to work with the NYSDOH on an enhanced approach to engage patients who test positive for HIV and empower them to become advocates in their own networks to increase testing and care in higher-risk communities.

This important work ties directly into PPNC’s county and state-wide effort towards “Ending the Epidemic” of HIV/AIDS.



Our HIV outreach team providing testing at a local community event



PPNC is also innovating in the area of “telemedicine” – the next wave in health care – providing remote access to services and prescriptions to returning and new patients.

In January, PPNC, along with our sister affiliates across New York State, launched “PP Direct,” a new smartphone app for requesting birth control pills and obtaining treatment for urinary tract infections (UTIs). In the age of Uber, GrubHub and Amazon, we felt it was time to offer New Yorkers two of our most popular (and most urgent!) services from the comfort of their homes, offices, cars or even yoga classes. This is an example of truly meeting our patients “where they are.”

While we know that there are many barriers to health care, with PP Direct, we’re proud to be reducing one of them! Every day, as each person downloads PP Direct, they become a part of the Planned Parenthood community – a community that includes more than 14,000 patients right here in Nassau County. As time goes on, we plan to expand services and coverage through PP Direct. In the meantime, we hope you will learn more about it, and tell your friends and family! [Click here for more information about PP Direct.](#) 

Getting Out the Vote

While the fall – and the 2018 election – may feel as if it were an eternity ago, we want to take a moment to reflect on what a pivotal and powerful time it was. With your help, during the months and weeks leading up to Election Day, we worked tirelessly to get out the vote. Indeed, we called. We knocked. We got creative. And because of this tenacity, we were able to drive historic wins, and elect a pro-reproductive health majority in New York State for the first time in years!

Knowing that the outcome of the midterm elections would be critical, PPNC began 2018 determined to carry out a powerful “Get Out the Vote” (GOTV) effort. And thanks to a special funding opportunity with the Long Island Civic Engagement Table (LICET), we were able to do just that. In the fall, PPNC augmented our efforts even more with phone banks and volunteer canvasses.

Finally, in the days leading up to the election, we got really imaginative. On October 30th, three of our Board Members who live in New York State Senate District 7 (a hotly-contested district), hosted a “Trick or Vote” house party and invited their neighbors to join in a grassroots GOTV initiative. More than 30 people came to the event and participated in some Halloween-spirited social media messaging to remind their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram friends to vote. Guests also picked up materials to hand out to the parents of trick-or-treaters with Halloween-themed Election Day reminders.

“Don’t be ghoulish...vote!

I loved getting my local community involved and reminding them of the importance of voting!”

–ROBIN SIGMAN,
PPNC BOARD MEMBER



PPNC Board Member, Robin Sigman, and Board Chair, Karen Seltzer

Through these efforts, PPNC reached more than 3,000 people leading up to the midterm elections, including registering more than 270 people to vote and pledging more than 950 voters. We are thrilled to say that our hard work paid off, and during such a crucial time in our democracy, these successes are so very important. We couldn’t have achieved this without incredible activists and supporters like you! 🙌



PPNC staff member, Kate B., canvassing to get out the vote with volunteers!

Happy 35th Birthday to our Teen Advocate Project



PPNC's 2018-2019 Teen Advocates with Coordinator Zoeë Davidson, Manager Naomi Cunningham, Director Giokazta Molina-Schneider, and Vice President Sarah Miller

Peer pressure has long been understood to be a major influencer of teen behavior – for better or worse. In 1984, PPNC saw an opportunity to use this powerful force for the better.

Thirty-five years ago, to reach and engage the youth in our communities, PPNC developed and launched a peer-led education program called the Teen Advocate Project (TAP), which bridges essential educational sexuality information with critical health services. The program is unique because it leverages the voice that teens listen to most – their peers! Indeed, the TAP program trains local high school students to be peer sexuality health educators and connects young people to the information and health care they both need and deserve. And over the years, this initiative has evolved to embrace new trends, integrating technology and incorporating new approaches.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Joan Saltzman, who recently passed at the age of 99. Joan was a generous donor to Planned Parenthood of Nassau County. Her legacy will live on as she recently gifted \$250,000 over 5 years to the Teen Advocate Project. Joan always had a special place in her heart for young people and her love, understanding and support will be missed.



For example, two years ago, informed by a growing need for teen-friendly, confidential spaces where young people could access care in our health centers, our TAP program collaborated with our Patient Services Team to launch a weekly Friday night Teen Clinic – a program that has welcomed hundreds of teens in our community as patients, and engaged them in peer-led educational activities and programming.

Moreover, recognizing that social media has emerged as the most powerful tool to reach teens, our TAP teens have begun developing and posting original, educational content for various digital platforms, including Instagram and Facebook. This effort is guided with the help of our Brand and Marketing Manager, who gathers with our TAP teens in sessions called “Social Media Saturdays,” during which teens apply their knowledge to develop compelling social media content that relays important health information and debunks common myths.



In late 2018, the TAP Teens expanded their efforts by releasing a new video on “Snapchat,” currently the most popular social media platform among young people.

PPNC's TAP Snapchat ad

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This video ad promoted PPNC's Teen Clinic, and was viewed more than 300,000 times over a two-week period. Notably, while the ad was "airing," traffic to PPNC's website increased by 20%, and visits to our Teen Clinic were at a record high!

Looking ahead, our TAP Teens are preparing to launch a new educational video and workshop series for teens and adults on the responsible use of social media. Stay tuned for updates!

Here at PPNC, we know that programs like TAP are instrumental in effectively and meaningfully shaping the lives of young people. We're especially proud that, after thirty-five years, the program has not only continued to thrive, but soar above all expectations, in helping young people reach their full potential. 



"The best thing about being an educator is that I get to be a relatable source for my peers when it comes to health resources and health information."

- Kemoya, TAP Teen

Kemoya's words reinforce what other TAP Teens have shared with us over the years: that serving as a trusted guide for their peers helps them build confidence and learn leadership and public speaking skills.

WAYS TO STAND WITH PPNC

We couldn't be more thankful for your support — it's advocates, volunteers, activists and donors like you who keep our doors open.

SAVE THE DATE:

- **Unstoppable Together Gala:** 5/3
- **Pink Out Power Up Summit:** 7/10
- **Annual Luncheon:** 10/16
*Featuring keynote speaker, "Notorious RBG"
Author and journalist, Irin Carmon*

BECOME A DONOR:

Visit ppnc.org/donate to donate (or become a monthly sustainer) today!

Have questions? Contact our Public Affairs team at publicaffairs@ppnc.org or call us at (516) 750-2649.

Join us at our 2019 Annual Gala!
Visit ppnc.org/gala for more information

