

# EQUITABLE ABORTION ACCESS THROUGH INNOVATIONS IN CARE AND POLICY



***Our Goal: Every person should be able to access safe, legal abortion care, no matter who they are or where they live. We aim to foster an environment in which equal and equitable access to abortion is a reality for all people seeking care in Massachusetts, with a focus on expanding abortion services in Southeastern MA.***

## Abortion is legal in Massachusetts – protected under state law.

When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, Massachusetts responded by passing a sweeping reproductive health care law that builds upon the ROE Act – our law that codifies the right to abortion – so that abortion providers are protected from out-of-state legal threats, insurers cover abortion care, and no one is forced to leave Massachusetts for abortion care later in pregnancy.

Many barriers to abortion care remain. The current geographic and systemic barriers, rooted in discrimination and stigma, deny people in Massachusetts abortion care, bodily autonomy, and true reproductive freedom. Addressing this health injustice is a part of our mission. Working in coalition, PPLM is pursuing every opportunity to remove these barriers and make Massachusetts a state in which every person can access the care they need without shame, stigma, or delay.



**BARNSTABLE, DUKES, NANTUCKET, AND PLYMOUTH COUNTIES HAVE NOT HAD AN ABORTION PROVIDER SINCE 2008.**



**SOME PATIENTS MUST TRAVEL 100 MILES OR MORE TO ACCESS CARE.**



**PEOPLE UNDER 16 MUST HAVE A PARENT'S PERMISSION OR OBTAIN A COURT ORDER TO ACCESS ABORTION CARE.**



**AN ABORTION TYPICALLY COSTS BETWEEN \$500 AND \$800 WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE.**

In collaboration with community partners, PPLM seeks to **improve abortion access for everyone.**



**Disrupting Disparities. Advancing Equity.**  
Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts  
Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund

## PPLM HAS RECENTLY ACCOMPLISHED:

- ✓ **Launched** direct-to-patient telemedicine abortion services in 2021, greatly improving access to care for people in Southeastern and Western MA
- ✓ Successfully **advocated** for legislation that requires Massachusetts insurers cover abortion and abortion-related care
- ✓ Successfully **advocated** for legislation that makes medication abortion and emergency contraception more accessible to college students
- ✓ People facing a grave or fatal fetal diagnosis later in pregnancy **no longer** need to leave the state for abortion care.
- ✓ The ROE Act, passed in 2020, **codifies** the right to abortion up to 24 weeks and removed barriers to care: 16 and 17 year olds no longer need a parent's permission or a court order to access abortion care.

## PPLM IS ACTIVELY WORKING TO:

- ✓ **Build and sustain** public support for expanded abortion access and reduce abortion stigma, with a focus on Southeastern Massachusetts.
- ✓ **Reduce** financial barriers to abortion, including telehealth services.
- ✓ **Expand** its patient navigation program to connect patients to providers, abortion funds, and other supportive services.
- ✓ **Build community** with fellow providers, grassroots leaders, and community organizations in Southeastern Massachusetts.
- ✓ **Support efforts** to improve abortion access in Southeastern Massachusetts beyond telemedicine abortion.
- ✓ **Advocate** for the passage of state legislation removing medically unnecessary and discriminatory barriers to abortion.