



Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast

2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Health Care is a Human Right

Planned Parenthood is one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable health care for women, men, Transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming patients. It is also the nation's largest provider of sex education. Approximately one in five women has relied on a Planned Parenthood health center for care in their lifetime. Planned Parenthood's extensive experience providing high-quality community-based health care for more than 100 years informs legislative advocacy efforts. Planned Parenthood believes that all Louisianans should have access to comprehensive reproductive health care, regardless of race or ethnicity, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, income, employer or zip code.

Health care is a human right.

[Access to Health Care](#)

Protect access to comprehensive reproductive health care for all Louisianans.

ANALYSIS: As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the state, hundreds of thousands of Louisianans with low incomes have turned to the Medicaid program for essential, life-saving health care. The number of people covered by the program surged by more than 208,000 from November 2019 to November 2020 — a jump of about 13 percent. In all, nearly 1.8 million people in Louisiana — about 39 percent of the state's residents — were receiving Medicaid as of November 2020.

Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast provided 9,800 preventive care visits for Medicaid patients in Louisiana in 2020. This includes birth control, lifesaving breast and cervical screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, HIV tests, annual wellness exams, as well as other preventive and essential care. In 2016, Louisiana lawmakers passed HB 606 (Act 304), which would prevent Medicaid patients from obtaining the medical care they need at Planned Parenthood. If enforced, this law would have devastating consequences; other providers simply cannot absorb all of these patients nor do they have the capacity to provide the same range of services.

Now more than ever, we need to bolster the social safety net. We need more providers to serve as many people as possible who are enrolled in public health programs like Medicaid. That's true at all times, and it's especially critical during a public health crisis as monumental as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Priority Legislation

SUPPORT

[HB 193](#) - Rep. Denise Marcelle and [SB 72](#) - Senator Troy Carter

Creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health.

[HB 468](#) – Rep. Mandie Landry

Provides relative to extension of Medicaid coverage for an individual experiencing postpartum.

OPPOSE

Any bills or amendments that would exclude Planned Parenthood from Medicaid.

Equitable Abortion Access

Protect access to safe and legal abortions for all Louisianans.

ANALYSIS: For years' politicians in Louisiana have focused their efforts on blocking access to abortion. Since 2011, the state has passed more than 200 restrictions, and in 2020, anti-abortion language was put into the Louisiana Constitution with the passage of Constitutional Amendment 1. These actions deteriorate the already dire health care landscape where nearly a million women of reproductive age rely on just three abortion providers in the entire state.

Priority Legislation

OPPOSE

[HB 255](#) – Rep. Charles Owen

Bans adults who a court has deemed to have diminished mental capacity to make their own decisions, from receiving an abortion and other reproductive medical care under any circumstance.

[HB 578](#) – Rep. Beryl Amedee

So-called "abortion pill reversal" bill would force doctors and the state to provide patients with information that is medically inaccurate, misleading and could be harmful to a woman's health. There is no evidence supporting medication abortion "reversal," and scientific research demonstrates that it could, in fact, be dangerous for patients, as concluded in a study by the Office of Public Health in 2017.

[HB 423](#) – Rep. Julie Emerson

Bans adults who a Court has deemed to have diminished mental capacity to make their own decisions, from receiving an abortion and other reproductive medical care under any circumstance, with no exceptions.

[HB 357](#) – Rep. Raymond Crews

Requires providers to submit information about minors accessing abortion.

[Building a Powerful Movement of Strong, Healthy Communities](#)

Support cross-movement efforts that are intersectional, address racial equity and justice for all people to live whole lives in Louisiana.

ANALYSIS: Planned Parenthood patients and supporters often face enormous hurdles accessing health care. We understand that our fights and movements are connected – if you don't feel safe and supported in your community, then you can't access the health care you need. We stand with our movement partners, our communities and all Louisiana in their ability to live full, healthy lives – no matter what.

Proposed Legislation

SUPPORT

[HB 7](#)- Rep. Aimee Freeman

Statewide tax exemption for menstrual products, diapers, etc.

(Shreveport, E. Baton Rouge, New Orleans passed it at local level; pushing for statewide passage)

[HB 67](#) – Rep. Mandie Landry

Repeals certain prostitution-related offenses; sex work decriminalization.

[HB 68](#) - Rep. Mandie Landry

Restricts solitary confinement.

[HB 382](#) – Rep. Candace Newel

Ensures that hair protection addresses issues related to work, school and housing.

OPPOSE

[HB 564](#) - Rep. Raymond Garofalo

Make it illegal to teach certain things about racism and sexism in LA schools & universities.

All Anti-Trans Bills that attempt to limit access to the health care that all people need to live healthy and full lives.

[HB 542](#) – Rep. Beryl Amedee

Bans Trans students from participating in sports.

[HB 575](#) – Rep. Gabe Firment

Prohibits prescribing and dispensing of drugs to a minor which may alter his puberty.

Prohibits clinically appropriate care for Trans minors. Forces schools to out students to their parents.

[SB 104](#) – Sen. Michael Fesi

Strips minors of the ability to consent to receiving gender therapy (nonsurgical and surgical procedures such as hormone treatments and gender surgeries) - will require consent of parents or caretaker.

[SB 156](#) – Sen. Beth Mizell

Bans Trans students from participating in sports.