

Impact Update

JUNE 2022

PPKeystone.org



Message from Melissa Reed, President and CEO

Dear Advocates, Fighters, Allies...

We are living in a post-Roe world.

Already, patients across the U.S. are scrambling to access the most basic human right - the ability to control their bodies.

I am gutted. The day the decision broke, I was in a Lancaster hotel chatting with staff about the day ahead of us. The kind of innocent chatter many of us do. We were discussing plans for the day, which included a health center tour, lunch with supporters, and an evening with our Board members. We had a Board meeting scheduled that Saturday - the first time in over two years that our Board would be together in person.

Then the news broke. Our hearts collectively sank. And though we had been planning for this decision, it didn't make the heartbreak any less painful.

So many of you reached out to offer words of love, encouragement, and support. Others of you expressed rage and expletives. All of those feelings were - and remain - valid.

So where do we go from here? And where do you fit in?

Pennsylvania is now an access point for abortion care because it is still legal here (thank you, Governor Wolf!).

So much has changed since Roe first passed, and some of those changes are really good; we now have

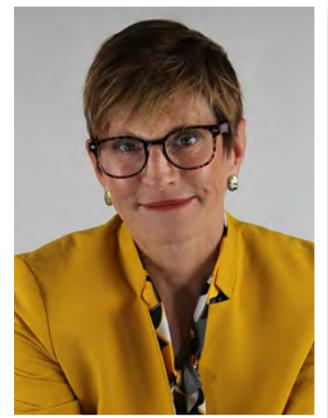
abortion pills. We even offer medication abortion through telehealth, mailing the medications directly to patients in Pennsylvania. And that's in addition to the abortion care we offer in our health centers. We also provide direct financial assistance to patients via our Fund for Choice, where 100% of donations go directly to patients seeking abortion care. And the strides haven't stopped, we are now bringing on patient navigators who will tap into a carefully planned network across the U.S., helping patients access abortion care in PA. We're also expanding our hours and bringing on more abortion providers to increase appointment availability.

This brings us to your role: this month's issue of Impact Update will spotlight actions you can take right now. Do one. Do them all. And get others to join you.

We have a long, long fight ahead; it will be decades before our nation sees abortion access in every state again. But together, we will do it. I know it.

Yours in the fight,

Melissa Reed, MA JD
President & CEO



PATIENT ESCORTS

The First Line Of Defense

Recently, the Inquirer did an [article](#) spotlighting the work of volunteer patient escorts.

The volunteer they interviewed has been a long time patient escort at our York and Harrisburg health centers, Linda Hengst. Linda shares stories of heart-felt encounters and makes clear our shared desire for all of our patients in general and one in particular, "We want her to do

whatever she wants."

In addition to interviewing Hengst, they also quote Melissa Reed on the protester activity we're seeing outside our clinics, "Right now, as we speak, we have protesters celebrating outside our clinics while our patients are inside trying to access abortion care," said Melissa Reed, CEO of Planned Parenthood Keystone, hours after the

Supreme Court decision Friday.

As an organization and as a movement, we are truly indebted to all of our volunteer escorts for their commitment to protecting our patients as they are receiving this critical health care. And PPKey gives a special thanks to Linda Hengst. We love you, Linda.

Pictured here are our volunteer patient escorts in York this past winter



Nobody should have to face harassment in order to get health care.

Stand with our patients as a **clinic escort.**

VOLUNTEER NOW



Planned Parenthood Keystone



My first involvement as a volunteer with Planned Parenthood began in late 2019 as a patient escort. I was only able to volunteer a few times before Covid-19 caused the suspension of the volunteer patient escort program. Since the program started back up in the summer of 2020 I have volunteered as a patient escort numerous times. During 2021 I also had the pleasure of volunteering with PP at a few Pride festivals as well as the march on the state capitol.

What prompted me to become involved as a volunteer at PP was that I came to the realization that I had to do something productive with the emotions I felt whenever I would see or hear about opposition protesting in front of PP clinics (something a little more productive than flipping them the bird).

Many of the patients are upset to begin with & my heart just goes out to them. I've found that providing that small level of comfort to the patients can have quite an impact on them. I remember there was one patient, walking into the clinic, grabbed my forearm,

looked at me and said pleadingly "will you be here when I come out" I of course made sure that I was still there in the parking lot when that patient came out. I call them "my patients" while I may not be a healthcare provider but when those patients are in that parking lot they are indeed "my patients".

There is also a selfish reason I have for volunteering. Knowing that I helped someone even just a little, especially someone quite likely going through a very rough time makes me feel just a wee bit better about myself. If you are looking for a way to make yourself feel about yourself, I strongly encourage you to go help someone else.

Volunteer Patient Escort, Jim Larkin

Legislative Update

SB 956: No Right To An Abortion, Constitutional Amendment

The Pennsylvania Senate is set to vote soon on SB 956, the No Right to Abortion Constitutional Amendment - a dangerous bill that could strip fundamental rights from Pennsylvanians. If passed and later approved on the ballot, SB956 would make it much easier for legislators to ban or severely restrict abortion in PA now that Roe v Wade is overturned.

This is not just a legislative proposal, but a veto-proof change to our state constitution with serious implications for more than just abortion - this would make it the policy of the state to "protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth" - that could have a direct impact on access to contraception, IVF, and even whether or not a pregnant person gets to make their own medical decisions about how they give birth.

SB 956 would enshrine discrimination into the Pennsylvania constitution - allowing the state to treat a person differently because they are pregnant and limit access to essential health care.

We know that because of the history of white supremacy and racism in our country, this type of legislation disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, Latino, and other people of color, people living with low-incomes or in rural communities, and people living with disabilities.

With the direct overturning of Roe by the Supreme Court, it is time for us to strengthen our commitment to reproductive health care and abortion access in our state - not roll it back even further.

We are encouraging our staff, supporters, and partners to act while there is still time. Email the Senate Co-Sponsors of SB 956 and tell them why you support access to abortion in Pennsylvania. You can also contact your Senators by phone and tell them you want them to fight back against SB 956.

We must come together to protect abortion access in Pennsylvania and continue to provide care, no matter what.

**SAY "NO" TO
SB 956**

**Email the
Senate
co-sponsors**

EMAIL

**Call your
Senators**

CALL

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Media Clips from Decision Day

The day the Supreme Court handed down their decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, our External Affairs team was bombarded with interview requests from many local news outlets in Central and Eastern PA.

We rounded up just a few of these media clips representing a swath of the communities we serve.

CENTRAL PA

[Supreme Court ruling against abortion expected to increase demand at central Pa. providers](#)

LEHIGH VALLEY

[WDIY Public Radio Exclusive Interview with Melissa Reed](#)

NEPA

[Planned Parenthood Keystone on Abortion Ruling](#)

YORK

['Never back down': Planned Parenthood preparing for flood of out-of-state women seeking abortions in Pa.](#)

SEPA

[SCOTUS Decision To Overturn Roe v. Wade Already Creating Surge Of Out-Of-State Patients In Pennsylvania: Planned Parenthood](#)

ICYMI



Chief External Affairs Officer at PPKey, Samantha Bobila, speaks with York Dispatch



CEO, Melissa Reed, speaks with Fox 43 Philly

TAKE ACTION

These are the six things you can do right now to make a difference for abortion access in our communities.

01

CONTACT YOUR REPS

Write, call, or email your state legislators and tell them you want them to protect abortion in PA.

Visit the Take Action page of our website with the button below to download templates and talking points or email them directly with [this link](#).

TAKE ACTION

02

FUND ABORTION CARE

Donate to our in-house abortion fund, Fund for Choice. 100% of proceeds go to our patients seeking abortion care, covering all related expenses for those who need it most.

DONATE

03

VOLUNTEER

Patient escorts are now the first line of defense for abortion patients and we need more volunteers at all of our health centers.

SIGN UP

04

SHARE YOUR STORY

The more we talk about our own experiences with abortion, the more we remove the darkness and stigma.

SHARE NOW

05

HOST A HOUSE PARTY

We'll join to talk about our response and how people can take action. Get in touch with us at development@ppkeystone.org

I'M INTERESTED

06

TALK ABOUT ABORTION

In the coming weeks, PPKeystone will offer virtual Coffee Talk events where we share tips & techniques on how to talk about abortion and provide the opportunities to practice.

I'M INTERESTED

UNNECESSARY RISKS

Perhaps you've seen folks on social media talk about camping, or openly advertising that folks needing abortions can stay with them. Maybe you've even seen someone taking donations to pay for a patient's travel.

We are not endorsing these actions.

Some states have enacted punitive measures along with their abortion bans and restrictions, and in others the legal situation is rapidly evolving, because of this; publicly stating that you will help or house someone seeking an abortion will **put you and the patient at risk** of criminal prosecution. Instead, reach out to us and other organizations already doing the work to see how you can support patients.

We have been contingency planning for this moment for a long time. We now have a well-connected, national network of abortion providers, volunteers, and reproductive justice organizations, including abortion navigators at PPKeyStone. We are tapped into this national network and prepared to help patients who are from out of state access the care they need.

The national landscape of abortion access is in flux right now and we must be strategic in our work together.

Online Advocacy

You can also advocate online through your social media profiles with this digital swag kit from Planned Parenthood Action

VIEW KIT

TALKING ABOUT ABORTION

This month, we're bringing you a quick video on talking about abortion from Taraji P. Henson.

Each person's circumstance is different and each pregnancy is unique. These personal decisions should be respected and valued.

Every pregnancy and situation is different. We can't know all of the factors that go into someone's decision.

Remind people that abortion is a deeply personal decision that no one should be making for someone else. It's just not our place to tell someone else what to do.

Politicians shouldn't be taking away our power to control our personal decisions.

They are making these decisions for us, without any public conversation or input. They're forcing people to have children, but against things like sex ed, affordable childcare, paid family leave, health care, and affordable housing.

Planned Parenthood providers talk with every patient who comes to us for an abortion. We provide unbiased information about all of their pregnancy options, including how to have a healthy pregnancy, starting prenatal care, referrals to adoption agencies, information about abortion, and resources for

getting support for pregnancy decisions.

Most patients have already decided to have an abortion when they come to us. Still, we ask every patient if they feel sure about their decision. If the patient is unsure, we say something like "let's stop for today" and ask what would best help them.

How to Talk About Abortion featuring Taraji P. Henson | Planned Parenthood Video



Y'all, we have to talk about abortion.
Hey, tenemos que hablar sobre el aborto.



0:02 / 2:28

Scroll for details



TALKING ABOUT ABORTION WORKSHOP

Abortion stigma.

It's the shame and silence that surrounds abortion. It comes from years of well-practiced and often shared rhetoric that demonizes abortion and creates a challenging environment for us to talk openly and unapologetically about it.

Well, we NEED to talk about it. NOW.

The best way to change hearts and minds is to have open and honest conversations with people who trust us. That's true about abortion, too.

Want to learn how to talk about abortion?

In the coming weeks, PPKeystone will offer Doing so will help us change the narrative and reassure people that abortion access is essential health care.

Let us know you're interested in this event by filling out the form on our website.

**Tell us you're
interested in
learning to talk
about abortion**

I'M INTERESTED

DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH

ROE V. WADE
1973

The Alarm Bell Will Ring For Decades

This crisis, abortion access in the U.S., did not end with the JWHO decision. Instead, it has worsened and intensified in the immediate days following the decision.



Sam Bobila (she/her)
Chief External Affairs Officer

Samantha has been with PPKeystone since 2020, leading the Development, Marketing, and Public Affairs departments as Chief External Affairs Officer.

THE STATES ARE NOT FREE, UNDER
THE GUISE OF PROTECTING MATERNAL
HEALTH OR POTENTIAL LIFE TO

For years, you've heard from us that we are in a crisis. We've rang alarm bell after alarm bell. And now I'm here to tell you that the alarm bell will ring for decades.

It is not an alarmist statement to say that things will get much worse before they get better. This is the reality of a post-Roe world.

Many of our long-time supporters know of a time before Roe, when days and nights were spent organizing for abortion rights; weekend after weekend of protests. We're returning to that time.

It will be decades before all 50 states have abortion access again. In the ugly reality of post-Roe, the only truth we know is that the work ahead will take a lifetime.

I am hopeful that I live to see the day when all 50 states have abortion access and that right is once again protected by the Constitution. But, until that time, we must commit ourselves to the daily work this movement requires and patients deserve.

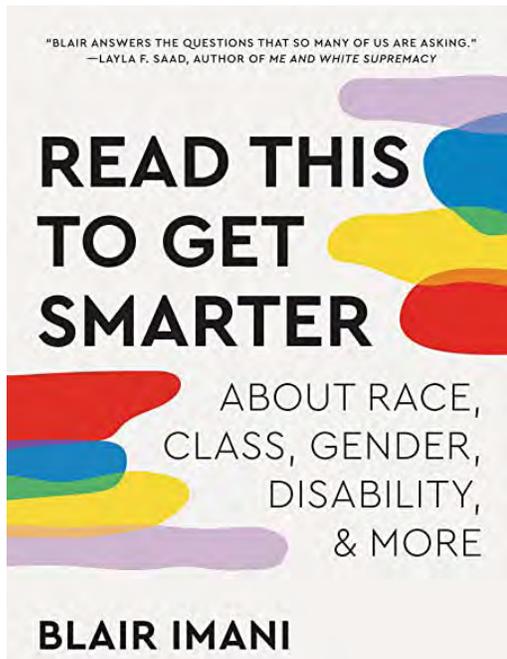
PPK is focusing on growing our supporter base among 18-30 year olds – we need them to take up the mantle. In order to achieve this, we need you to help connect us.

We are looking for

- Local leaders in colleges and universities who can help us create and strengthen relationships so that we can tap into their student bodies and train a new generation of reproductive rights leaders.
- Faculty in local school districts so we can provide workshops for staff and educate students.
- Local business owners and managers at coffee shops and retail stores where young people hang out so we can offer outreach and education to them.
- You – to have conversations with your own children and grandchildren. Tell them about the importance of defending reproductive rights. Tell them why our work matters to you. And get them connected with our teams.

We know that we have to grow our movement from the ground up. And we can't do it without you. Please email us with your connections.

EMAIL US



Upcoming Event

A Virtual Bookclub

Planned Parenthood Keystone will be hosting a Virtual Book Club this August.

This virtual meeting will be a chance to join fellow reproductive rights advocates to discuss the latest book by our Keystone Cares 2022 Keynote Speaker, Blair Imani.

Keep an eye on your inbox for the upcoming registration link. If you have questions or just want to be sure you don't miss the invitation, you can email development@ppkeystone.org.



There will be three sessions available to join the bookclub

The event will be held virtually via Zoom on

Tuesday, August 16th

Thursday, August 18th

Wednesday, August 24th

Save the Date

Keystone Cares

Thursday, September 29, 2022

12:00PM

Featuring speaker Blair Imani, critically-acclaimed author, educator and influencer. Her latest book is *Read This to Get Smarter*.

Proud to Care.

**Expert staff. Quality care.
Be part of a team that truly
cares for the community.**

**Forma parte
de nuestro equipo
¡y ayuda a
tu comunidad a
mantenerse
saludable!**



Join us in the meaningful work we do every day: providing much-needed sexual and reproductive health and education services to those who need care.

Apply now for an open position:
<https://jobs.lever.co/ppkeystone>



July Community Outreach

The Planned Parenthood Keystone Education and Community Outreach teams host and attend many public community events throughout the summer and beyond. We hope you can stop by an event in your area.

Sunday, July 17th

- Reading Pride Celebration
11 AM – 6 PM
201 Washington St, Office 556, Reading, PA

Thursday, July 28th

- Job & Resource Fair hosted by PathStone
10 AM – 2 PM
121 South 2nd Street, Reading

Saturday, July 30th

- Pride Festival of Central PA
11 AM – 6 PM
Emergency Responders Plaza
Harrisburg, PA

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