

*Every person should have equitable access to abortion, no matter who they are or where they live – without shame, stigma, or delay.*

# INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION

Access to abortion is being decimated across the country in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, putting the future of abortion access in the hands of the states. Preserving reproductive freedom is going to take the strength of the entire Planned Parenthood movement.

In Massachusetts, abortion remains legal and protected, but even here, access to care is not guaranteed due to serious barriers like distance, affordability, pervasive stigma, and systemic racism. These challenges disproportionately affect people of color, LGBTQ+ people, people with low incomes, and people with disabilities. As more people look to Massachusetts as a safe place for care, we must not only affirm the state's commitment to abortion rights, but also improve access to care so all people can make the decision that is right for them.



We must advance health equity by reducing the barriers to care that disproportionately affect people of color and people with low incomes. **Our key goal is to address the abortion desert\* in southeastern Massachusetts.**



**\*Abortion desert:**  
a region that has a demand for abortion services while having a lack of abortion providers.

Without health insurance, an abortion typically costs between

**\$500 AND \$800**

To address the abortion deserts we will:

- 1 harness telehealth to build our medication abortion by mail program;
- 2 advocate for equitable policies that ensure sexual health care is accessible and affordable, including those that reduce the financial barriers to telehealth;
- 3 expand PPLM's patient navigation services to assist our patients, ensuring they can access care, whether at PPLM, a local referral partner, or anywhere across the country;
- 4 create collaborative partnerships with local health care providers and other service organizations in this region including partnering with public colleges and universities to establish referral programs between campus health centers and PPLM; and
- 5 build community with grassroots leaders and community organizations to increase public support for abortion and combat stigma.

**16 years later, I have no shame. I have no regrets. I don't live with guilt, like many claim is inevitable for women who have abortions; I live with gratitude and compassion.**

- Jenna C., PPLM patient

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 2020

The Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts (PPAF) built a broad coalition of social justice groups, health advocacy organizations, and grassroots activists that lobbied the Legislature and Governor to codify abortion rights into state law in a bill that:



**Legalized abortion later in pregnancy** for people facing a fatal or grave fetal diagnosis.



Ensured **young people ages 16 and 17 do not need to go to court for permission** to access abortion.



**Removed inflammatory language and criminal penalties from Massachusetts laws** that were designed to deter providers from offering safe, legal abortion care.

### 2021

**Established a telemedicine abortion program** to provide eligible patients in Massachusetts with medication for abortions through the mail.

### 2022

Successfully advocated for a reproductive health care law that **mandates insurers cover abortion and abortion-related care.**

### 2023

**Established a community partnership with Health Imperatives** – an organization providing reproductive health care to patients in Southeastern Massachusetts.