

SUMMER 2024

# HORIZONS

A Publication of Planned Parenthood South Texas



## OUR UNFINISHED MARCH

*Read more on page 8.*

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*We provide and protect the health care and information people need to plan their families and their futures.*

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# SUMMER 2024 HORIZONS

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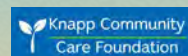
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# Message from the Board Chair

Last year my husband and I started watching *Call the Midwife*, a PBS series that ran for a number of years about a group of midwives in London in the years following World War II. A common topic of discussion is the concern expressed for these poor women who were getting pregnant over and over again, without the money to feed the children they already had.

Some of the episodes dealt with the atrocities of back-alley abortions, obtained by women so desperate they were willing to risk their own lives to avoid having one more baby she could not afford to feed. We still haven't watched the entire series, but by season six, things were already starting to get better due to advances in family planning options.

**The impact of reliable, affordable birth control is undisputable.** The first birth control pill available in the U.S. was approved by the FDA in May 1960. Within two years, more than a million prescriptions had been written. For the first time women were able to complete their educations and follow career dreams, while starting their families at a time of their choosing. I have spent my career practicing law. In 1960, the percentage of lawyers in the U.S. who were women in 1960 was 3%. Today that number is almost 40% and climbing. The numbers are also rising for women CEOs, business owners and other professionals.

In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that abortion was a constitutional right. This was a right that was challenged and assaulted for more than 50 years, but the U.S. Supreme Court held firm. Then the election of 2016 happened. So in 2020, when I was approached about serving on the board of PPST, I had to say yes. Little did I know then just how bad things were about to get.

Emboldened by the stronghold of the far right on Texas, our governor and attorney general have come after Planned Parenthood and access to reproductive health care with a vengeance. Through more restrictive laws and lawsuits filed against us, our state's leaders have made it clear that they will not rest until women in Texas have fewer health care options available. This is especially true for women who do not have the means to get private pay health care, our most vulnerable. I feel like we have regressed back to the post WWII days. So again, in 2023, when I was asked if I would consider serving as the Board Chair of PPST, I had to say yes.

I graduated high school in 1970. I spent my college years fighting for civil rights, women's rights and voting rights. I just can't help but feel we are almost back to square one (I appreciate that there is some hyperbole in this statement, but it is how I feel!). We all have to pull together, now

more than in 50 years, to protect the rights of the most vulnerable. My children are in their 30s, and I tell them that I fought this fight already; now it is their turn. But the truth of the matter is, it is now everyone's turn.

I am proud to serve as the Chair of the PPST Board, and I look forward to getting out there to assure that future generations have all of the choices I had.

  
Jane E. Bockus, Board Chair



Former Board Chair Merritt Clements, Sandra Cisneros,  
current Board Chair Jane Bockus



# Ending the syphilis epidemic

Syphilis has reached epidemic proportions nationally, with a rising number of babies born with congenital syphilis. PPST's Richland Hills health center in San Antonio is one of only 12 health centers nationwide selected to participate in a pilot project to address this public health crisis.

The goal of the Syphilis Point-of-Care Pilot Project is to increase screening for syphilis among people of reproductive age (regardless of whether they have symptoms of the disease) in areas with high rates of disease, including Bexar County, and to ensure pregnant people are screened and treated early in pregnancy.

Lessons learned in this project will help the entire family planning network across the country in a large-scale effort to reduce rates of congenital syphilis.

Point-of-care testing allows providers to run a test on site after taking a sample and receive rapid results. If the screening is reactive or inconclusive, the provider sends the specimen to our in-house laboratory for confirmation.

"No baby should ever be born with syphilis," said Nikki Johnson, RN, PPST's Director of Quality. "Planned Parenthood South Texas is proud to participate in this vital project to test the impact of point-of-care testing in our family planning clinic to address the syphilis epidemic."

All the sites included in the project are Title X clinics, which receive federal family planning funding and are trusted resources for quality sexual and reproductive health services. Staff are trained and experienced in non-stigmatizing, person-centered approaches to sexual and reproductive health. STI testing and treatment are core services in Title X clinics, and these clinics provide a different access point than STI clinics.

The increase in newborn syphilis has followed an increase in syphilis cases among women of reproductive age, and is worsened by social and

economic factors that create barriers to high-quality prenatal care.

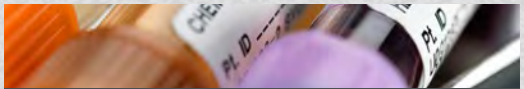
PPST has long offered syphilis testing, and we began providing actual treatment for syphilis last summer in response to the epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all pregnant people be screened for syphilis at diagnosis of pregnancy or the first prenatal visit. The CDC also recommends screening all patients of reproductive age who live in an area with a syphilis rate over 4.6/100,000, regardless of symptoms or other risk factors. In 2022, the rate in Bexar County was an alarming 27.4/100,000.

The Office of Population Affairs is partnering with the Clinical Training Center for Sexual and Reproductive Health to implement the project, with funding from the Office of Disease Prevention.

*While only our Richland Hills health center is participating in the pilot project, syphilis testing is available at all Planned Parenthood South Texas health centers. Go to [ppsouthtexas.org](https://ppsouthtexas.org) or call 1-800-230-PLAN(7526).*

*To donate to Planned Parenthood South Texas to support syphilis testing and treatment, as well as other health care services, go to [ppsouthtexas.org](https://ppsouthtexas.org) or call 210-726-2244 ext. 3400.*



## ABOUT CONGENITAL SYPHILIS

- Pregnant people with syphilis can pass the infection on to their baby, which can lead to miscarriage, low birth weight, premature delivery or stillbirth.
- Most infants born with syphilis are asymptomatic at birth. Without treatment, they can develop health problems such as seizures, blindness, or deafness. Congenital syphilis can also lead to death.
- In the United States, newborn syphilis cases rose tenfold from 2012 to 2022.
- Nearly 9 in 10 cases of newborn syphilis in 2022 might have been prevented with timely testing and treatment during pregnancy.
- Nearly 40 percent were among mothers who were not in prenatal care.
- Reported congenital syphilis cases increased 31 percent in just one year, from 2021 to 2022

**Source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention







# Advancing reproductive rights in the RGV

Harlingen

Brownsville

Communities in the Rio Grande Valley have been learning about reproductive justice, thanks to a partnership between Planned Parenthood South Texas and La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE).

The project, funded by Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Future of Abortion Access Grant, is intended to help nonprofits led by people of color participate in advocacy and educational work around abortion access.

More than 1,200 residents of the Rio Grande Valley participated in these conversations. Community members also received Planned Parenthood resources such as literature, period packs, condoms and emergency contraception.

LUPE, founded by labor rights activists César Chávez and Dolores Huerta, builds stronger communities through the power of civic engagement. The nonprofit works on such issues as immigrant rights and improved infrastructure in colonias and is a trusted source of information in the community. This project was a departure from their typical work.

"It opened a window to start talking more about this and what rights women have, what resources are available out there for them, so that they do not feel that being pregnant means that they have to continue with it," said Joaquin Garcia, Director of Organizing at LUPE.

The border is uniquely affected by abortion bans, because often residents are unable to travel out of state to receive abortion care. At the same time, too often people do not have access to the health care and education they need to prevent unintended pregnancies.



In order to motivate communities to advocate for their own reproductive rights, it's necessary to provide education about what those rights entail and why they are important. With the grant, LUPE incorporated reproductive justice, healthcare information and sex education at their monthly and house meetings, as well as at special events such as their annual march.







To kick start the partnership, LUPE received two trainings on reproductive justice and abortion rights from the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice and Frontera Fund.

“I learned how reproductive healthcare encompasses many things, not necessarily just abortion,” Garcia said. “It is the right to have access to health care, having accessible insurance, talking about birth control. There are a lot of things that we know mean reproductive health care.”

Kayla Montano, Community Organizer at LUPE, said the project enabled them to educate their members on safe sex and the different birth control methods available for them.

“There were a lot of people that did not know what Plan B is,” she said, referring to emergency contraception, also known as the morning-after pill.

“I’m happy that I was able to teach them what it is and how it can be used. And also, those that have heard of it but think they are abortion pills. So being able to explain to people that they are not abortion pills, they are birth control.”

Marcela Alejandre, Organizer at LUPE, said that often mothers in colonias oppose sex education for their teens. Adults must be

taught about the risks of unprotected sex so they can understand the importance of sex education for their kids, she explained. Slowly, the community is becoming more receptive.

“For example, here at the office we always have condoms for people to take. But nobody would take them,” Alejandre said. “Now, little by little, we have people asking us if we have more condoms because they run out.”

***“The border is uniquely affected by abortion bans, because often residents are unable to travel out of state to receive abortion care.”***

Lizbeth Martinez, Development Associate at LUPE, said she knows firsthand how difficult it is for women in the Rio Grande Valley to have talks about sex education because there is a lot of stigma in older generations, but that she is happy to see LUPE is growing and including more youth in their events and programs.

“Now that we have our youth group, we are looking to expand our services. So it is important to keep everyone informed about STDs and safe sex,” Martinez said. “This will make our community grow and come together.”

For more information about La Unión del Pueblo Entero, visit [lupenet.org](http://lupenet.org).





# A new view of menopause

## *Menopause is undergoing a public makeover of sorts.*

Symptoms such as hot flashes, mood swings, sleep disturbances, memory fog, joint pain and vaginal dryness were once seen as inevitable challenges women had to suffer through. Although medical therapies have long been available, misconceptions about their safety were widespread.

In the last few years, Americans have begun discussing menopause — and what we can do to ease symptoms — more openly.

“It’s such a normal thing, and there shouldn’t be any stigma around it,” explained Lois McGuire, a Society of Menopause Certified Provider and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner who served at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota for 26 years. McGuire is now a Planned Parenthood South Texas volunteer.

While many people may think of Planned Parenthood primarily as providers of birth control, we are here to care for **every** body and every generation. All of our health centers in San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley offer menopause care, including clinical evaluation of symptoms and management of those symptoms. We also provide menopause care via telehealth.

Some sexual dysfunction symptoms, such as vaginal dryness, can be addressed with non-hormonal vaginal moisturizers and lubricants. We also prescribe hormone therapy when appropriate. Just as with birth control, there is no one-size-fits-all answer for every patient. There are many options available to address unique needs.

While lack of information and a reticence to talk about menopause prevent some women from getting the care they need, others suffer needlessly with symptoms and sexual dysfunction because they lack insurance or resources. Our commitment to helping every body means helping people without resources pay for their menopause care. Office visits and any lab tests are based on a sliding fee scale at most Planned Parenthood South Texas locations. Clinic staff can also help patients find discounts on prescription drugs.

“Women live so much longer than they used to,” McGuire said. “If we can make those years healthier and happier, why wouldn’t we?”

## *Revisiting hormone therapy*

In the early 2000s, a landmark women’s health study raised concerns about hormone treatments for menopause increasing the risk for cardiovascular disease and breast cancer.





## ABOUT HORMONE THERAPY

Hormone therapy, which involves the use of estrogen and sometimes progestogens, is the gold standard for alleviating perimenopause and menopause symptoms. For most, hormone therapy can restore comfort and well-being with minimal risks.

### **Benefits**

- Significant reduction in bone loss and fractures
- Improved sleep
- Reduced joint pain
- Increased vaginal lubrication
- Decreased risk in new-onset diagnosis of type 2 diabetes
- Decreased risk of endometrial, ovarian, and colorectal cancers
- No statistically significant increase in breast cancer risk, even with a family history
- Reduced or had no effect on subclinical atherosclerosis or coronary artery calcification
- Potential reduction in heart disease risk when started early
- May decrease macular degeneration and open angle glaucoma
- May work as an antidepressant in perimenopausal women
- May improve balance

### **Caution**

Hormone replacement may not be suitable for individuals with a personal history of breast cancer. Safer alternatives may be explored to manage menopause symptoms. Additionally, those with a history of blood clots, uncontrolled high blood pressure, or cardiovascular disease should consult their health care provider before considering hormone therapy.

### **Guidelines**

It is safest to begin hormone therapy during perimenopause or early menopause. During perimenopause, hormone therapy may be in the form of a low-dose birth control pill. Guidelines encourage patients to begin within the first 10 years of menopause.

Estrogen can be administered in various forms, including pills, patches, gels, vaginal rings, or vaginal inserts. Progestogen is typically prescribed orally or in combination with an estrogen patch to patients with a uterus to prevent abnormal tissue growth in the uterine lining.

The decision to discontinue hormone therapy should be based on individual symptoms and medical history. Long-term hormone therapy may be an option for healthy individuals.

For those experiencing vaginal dryness, pain during intercourse, or recurrent urinary tract infections, vaginal estrogen cream can provide effective relief, as it primarily targets vaginal tissues.

**Source:** Lois McGuire

But a new follow-up study found those fears were overblown.

The study, published in the medical journal JAMA, found that the benefits of hormone therapy for the treatment of menopause symptoms outweigh the risks for women younger than 60.

The first study had serious flaws, including the age of the women studied – starting hormone therapy is safest and most beneficial between ages 50 and 60, but most subjects in the study were older than 60. In addition, there are now different types of hormones, delivered at lower doses, that have been shown to be safer than what was formerly prescribed.

At Planned Parenthood South Texas, clinicians will consider a patient's symptoms, medical history, and family background when deciding on appropriate treatment.

Hormone therapy historically has been a topic of confusion and controversy, so it's crucial to look at the science to make informed decisions.

"For most, hormone therapy represents a safe and effective means to improve or eliminate menopausal symptoms, ultimately enhancing their quality of life," McGuire said.



# Lunch with Eric Holder

*"In the long run, the story of American democracy is one of grinding, halting, bloodstained persistence and expansion, even in the face of tyranny, but we've had to work for it because the path to progress has never been blazed through inertia."* — Eric Holder, *Our Unfinished March*

## Our Unfinished March

The Planned Parenthood movement has come a long way in the last century, as have strides toward racial equity, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights and more. But the fight for equality and justice is far from over.

On November 8, three days after the November 5 general election, Attorney General Eric Holder will join Planned Parenthood at the 2024 Annual Luncheon in San Antonio to discuss the distance left to travel, the next steps to take, the obstacles we'll face, and if the rule of law can be counted on to propel our journey forward.

No one knows what will happen on November 5. But we do know that on November 6 our health centers will be full of South Texans counting on us for top quality, evidence-based, empowering care.

That's why your support of the luncheon is so important. It will fund health and education services that help people move their lives and families forward in times of opportunity and in times of challenge.

Tables are available at the \$2,500, \$3,500, \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000 sponsorship levels. Learn more at [ppsouthtx.org/2024 luncheon](https://ppsouthtx.org/2024-luncheon) or email [angela.koester@ppsouthtexas.org](mailto:angela.koester@ppsouthtexas.org).



**ABOUT ERIC HOLDER:** Eric H. Holder, Jr. made history in 2009 when President Obama appointed him as Attorney General, the first African American to hold that position.

Holder served in the Obama Administration from 2009 to 2015, the third longest-serving attorney general in U.S. history. During his tenure, he championed hallmark legislation on voting rights, immigration law, national security, and same-sex marriage. In 2014, **TIME Magazine** named Holder one of the year's 100 Most Influential People.

Now, Holder has continued his pursuit for civil rights in his post-White House career, serving as Chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee and using his unique expertise as a leading voting rights advocate.

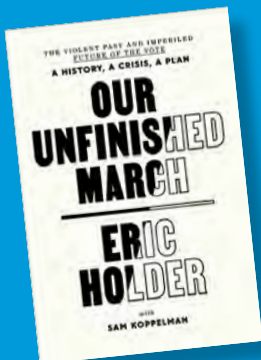
Holder was born in the Bronx, New York and grew up in East Elmhurst, Queens. He holds undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University.

Holder's book, *Our Unfinished March: The Violent Past and Imperiled Future of the Vote — A History, A Crisis, A Plan* (Penguin Random House, 2022) is a dramatic history of the vote in America and an urgent summons to protect and perfect our democracy.

Holder takes readers through how the vote was won in three stages: first by white men, through violence and insurrection; then by white women, through tax strikes, direct action protests, and mass imprisonments; and finally by Black Americans, in the face of lynchings, terrorism, and assassinations.

Holder then addresses how the vote has been stripped away from Americans, before delivering his visionary ideas for how we can become a true democracy.

*Kirkus Reviews* called the book "A powerful defense of democracy coupled with a thoughtful survey of the struggle for civil rights."





# The Fanny Fund

## Promoting health equity by expanding access to care

For too many Texans, the health care they need to plan their families and futures is out of reach.

That's why Elise Boyan, former PPST Board Chair and longtime champion of reproductive health care, established the Fanny Fund. Named for her great-grandmother, the Fanny Fund helps people without health insurance receive essential health care services at Planned Parenthood South Texas.

### **Why can't everyone access health care in Texas?**

Texas leads the nation in the percentage of people without health insurance — double the national average — because it is one of only 10 states that does not provide a health care program for all low-income people.

### **What about Medicaid?**

Texas has the most restrictive Medicaid requirements in the nation. Adults under 65 who don't have children and aren't pregnant are not eligible for Medicaid at all in Texas. A family of three can't qualify for Medicaid if they make more than \$4,131 annually.

### **What about Obamacare?**

People must make a certain income in order to qualify for subsidies for insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace (aka Obamacare). A family of three must earn \$25,820 to receive government subsidies to help them pay for a plan through a state-run health insurance marketplace.

**About 800,000 Texans have income that is too low to qualify for the ACA marketplace subsidies but too high to receive Medicaid.**

### **Who is affected?**

These are often the working poor who have low-wage jobs that don't provide health insurance, e.g. cashiers, cooks, servers, housecleaners, and construction laborers. Black and Hispanic/Latino people are more likely than white people to be uninsured.

These are the people who look to Planned Parenthood for the health care they need to move forward with their lives and their plans for the future.

### **What about Planned Parenthood's financial assistance programs?**

Thanks to our generous donors, foundation partners and government funding, Planned Parenthood South Texas has many financial assistance programs so people can access care at a deep discount. But sometimes more help is needed.

For example, people under the poverty line can access family planning services at no cost at our health centers that receive Title X federal family planning funding. But some people live a few dollars just above the poverty line — yet don't have enough money to afford their care. Or a patient may need primary care services, such as diabetes treatment, which isn't covered under the family planning grant.

### **How does the Fanny Fund help?**

The Fanny Fund increases access to essential health care by helping people who can't afford to pay for their care.

In addition, the Fanny Fund underwrites vouchers that we give to our partners — other nonprofits who are passionate about community care and may serve

clients who don't know about the services Planned Parenthood provides. Our partners identify people in need of birth control, Pap smears, STI testing, or other care, and give them a Fanny Fund voucher to receive that care at no cost.

The Fanny Fund even helps cover the cost of a rideshare for patients who don't have transportation to a health center.

### **How can you help?**

We must pay for every bit of compassion we show our patients. With support from the

Fanny Fund, we can help more community members, such as the young man who visited a health center in San Antonio with some concerning symptoms of a sexually transmitted infection, but did not have the ability to cover even a nominal payment on our sliding fee scale.

Or the young woman whose paycheck goes toward tuition at community college and who doesn't have insurance to cover birth control.

Or the retiree who needs a clinical breast exam and can't wait months for an appointment at a crowded public clinic.

We don't yet live in a world where everyone is guaranteed access to high-quality health care. But at least the residents of South Texas will be one step closer to realizing that vision — thanks to the Fanny Fund.

*If you would like to donate to the Fanny Fund, please email [donate@ppsouthtexas.org](mailto:donate@ppsouthtexas.org), go to [ppsouthtexas.org](https://ppsouthtexas.org), or call 210-572-5279.*



**Elise Boyan, former PPST Board Chair**





# Brunch with Sandra Cisneros

Four decades after the publication of her groundbreaking book *The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros visited Brownsville to speak to Planned Parenthood supporters about the power of art in activism.

She began writing the book, not for publication, but to release the pain she felt from witnessing the challenges her students faced, she told an audience of more than 200 attendees at the 2024 Planned Parenthood Annual Valley Brunch on April 14.

“To me that is why art is so essential to all of you, to all of us as human beings. We don’t need art as entertainment. We need art as medicine,” she said.



“Especially when you’re doing heavy, heavy work in this part of the world, where you can feel impotent and you can feel absolutely powerless and you can feel defeated. You can’t be defeated because you are the lanterns of hope for others. It is your job. Each of you is doing sacred work. You can’t give up. We need you.”

The audience also heard from Planned Parenthood South Texas staff members as well as Laura Carmona, a local teacher, and Wendy Davis, Senior Advisor at Planned Parenthood Texas Votes.

Artists working with the Flower Shop Art Studio in Brownsville exhibited works that evoked the themes of feminism and empowerment.

All proceeds from the event will support the health care and education that we provide, including birth control, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, abortion navigation, gender-affirming hormone therapy, and much more.

After her speech, Sandra Cisneros spent nearly three hours talking one-on-one with brunch attendees, including students and activists.

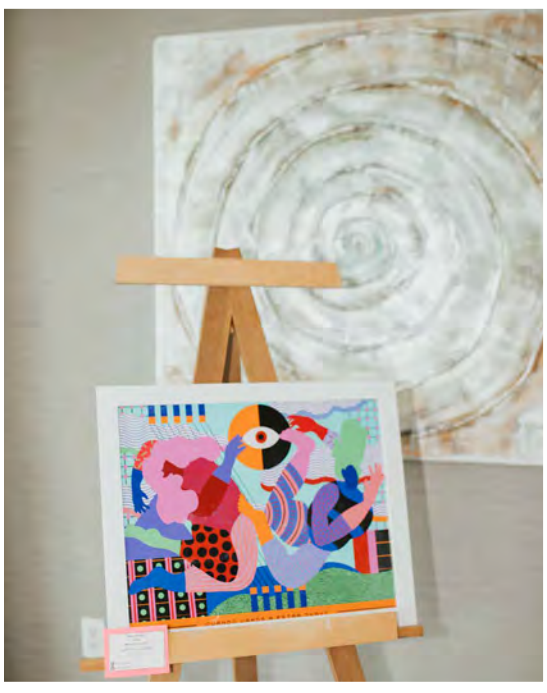
“They are the brave ones that inspire me,” she said. “They gave me more than I gave them.”







Laura Terrill, PPST President & CEO



"Cuando Vamos A Estar Okay?" by Sam Rawls and Monica Lugo

## PARTNERS IN SOLIDARITY

Many of our partner organizations were represented at the Brunch with Sandra Cisneros so attendees could learn more about efforts to make the Rio Grande Valley a more equitable place. Sincere thanks to these partners.

- Friendship of Women
- Frontera Fund
- La Union del Pueblo Entero
- Latina Institute Texas
- South Texans for Reproductive Justice
- South Texas Equality Project
- Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
- Texas Rising
- TransParent RGV Support
- Under the Umbrella
- Valley Aids Council
- Voces Unidas RGV



Sandra Cisneros with teacher Laura Carmona, and Carmona's students



# What 80% of Texans don't know about the state's abortion ban

*Texas has one of the strictest abortion bans in the nation – stricter than most Texans realize.*

*According to a survey by Austin-based Resound Research for Reproductive Health, more than 8 in 10 Texans had inaccurate knowledge about whether Texas allowed abortion exceptions for life-threatening medical complications, rape and incest, or fetal anomalies.*

*Wendy Davis, former member of the Texas Senate and longtime champion for reproductive rights, is speaking out about aspects of the ban that many Texans don't know.*

## **This cruel abortion ban has NO exception for rape and incest.**

Texas saw an estimated 26,313 rape-related pregnancies during the 16 months after the state outlawed abortions, by far the highest of the 14 states with abortion bans in place.

## **The Texas abortion ban has NO exception for fatal fetal anomaly.**

You've probably read or heard the story of Kate Cox – whose very much wanted pregnancy resulted in an unsustainable fetal anomaly that threatened Kate's own life and future fertility and who was refused the life-saving care that she needed, even after appealing to the Texas Supreme Court to be allowed that care. Wrenched with the pain of the decision that she faced, Kate had to travel to a different state to receive the care that she needed.

## **The Texas abortion ban purports to have an exception for life of the mother – but it isn't worth the legislative paper it is written on.**

Just ask Amanda Zurawski, lead plaintiff along with roughly 20 other women in a case against the state of Texas that recently went before the Texas Supreme Court.



Wendy Davis speaking to the audience at the PPST Brunch in Brownsville in April



At 18 weeks, Amanda's water broke and though her pregnancy was unviable, doctors were terrified of providing her the care that she needed, even after she became septic twice and almost died, waiting until her fetus no longer had a heartbeat, until she could finally get the abortion care that she needed.

Why would a doctor or hospital refuse that care, you ask? Because if they are found to have violated the law under someone else's idea of what was a "reasonable" standard of care, they are subject not only to losing their medical license but also to spending the rest of their lives in prison.

In May, the court ruled against Amanda and the other women who were denied medically necessary abortions, saying the medical exceptions in the law were sufficiently broad.



(l-r) Sandra Ciseneros, Wendy Davis, and Laura Terrill

**So anyone who thinks that restrictions on abortion are acceptable so long as there are "exceptions" – please help them understand that there is no such thing as an exception.**

Who gets to decide if you are sick enough, if your life is threatened enough to warrant intervention?

And for states that do have other "exceptions" on the books:

Who gets to decide if you were really raped?

Who gets to decide if your fetal anomaly is severe enough to warrant termination?

And more than that – **why should anyone else get to decide anyway?**

Behind all the high-profile cases we are hearing regarding the ending of much wanted pregnancies, there are hundreds of thousands of other people – our fellow humans – who are dealing with the consequences of unplanned pregnancies unfolding each and every day across the country.

These aren't the stories that are making the national news. These are the stories of college students with dreams for themselves. Of moms who are struggling to support the children they already have. Of women in abusive relationships. Of people for whom it is simply none of our business to decide if they should be forced to carry a pregnancy to term – no matter their unique and underlying reason. – **Wendy Davis**

*Wendy Davis currently serves as Senior Advisor to Planned Parenthood Texas Votes, a nonpartisan 501(c)(4) organization that engages in electoral activity, legislative advocacy, grassroots organizing, and leadership development to promote and protect the mission of Planned Parenthood affiliates in Texas.*

*As a 501(c)(3) organization, Planned Parenthood South Texas does not engage in political campaigning and follows all rules and regulations to ensure compliance.*

*The above remarks from Wendy Davis are permitted under 501(c)(3) rules.*

*To learn more about Planned Parenthood Texas Votes, visit [pptexasvotes.org](https://pptexasvotes.org).*





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