



CHOICE Remarks

SUMMER 2023

Post Roe: Snapshot of a Year

In June of 2022, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, removing federal protections for abortion rights. Some states moved quickly to put abortion bans into place, throwing patients and providers into a devastating new reality. At Planned Parenthood, we know that banning abortion does not take away people's need to access abortion. Patients accessing abortion services should not face the shame and overwhelming hurdles that came from this decision.

At Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood we are committed to providing the very best health care, both in our community and to those who travel to us. Since 2016, UHPP has been increasing our capacity to enable us to be there for every single person who needs us. Now, and in the future.

After Roe was overturned, we were ready. We hired an abortion navigator to assist patients who travel from anywhere in the country find the care they need. We, through the support of our donors and New York State, increased our staffing, improved technology, increased wages, and more. Putting our patients' needs first, we introduced nitrous gas to help manage pain, and began offering abortion aftercare kits to our patients. We continue to expand our marketing efforts, so that our community knows they can count on us, and we offer an educational teach-in series for our supporters and advocates.

In New York, we continue to be a safe haven for those seeking abortion care. With the passage of the Reproductive Health Act in 2019 we ensured our rights; however, we must continue to work every day to ensure access. We have many other challenges ahead as the anti-choice, antidemocratic far right crusaders look to take away our freedoms. Still, we won't back down. Not now, not ever.

"We must be focused on what may lie ahead of us including the efforts to pass a national ban on abortion, the continued attempt to erode the authority of the FDA through the groundless case opposing approval of Mifepristone. Who knows what they will target next, gender affirming hormones? Birth control? Still, the relentless attacks on trans communities and LGBTQIA young people continue, and we must all stand together to protect our freedom, our values and our democracy." says Chelly Hegan, UHPP President/CEO.

Over the last few years, as we prepared to lose the federal constitutional right to abortion, we've been asking ourselves, "Who are we going to be?" Now we know. We are powerful, persistent and committed to one another. The attacks will be continuous. But we will not back down. UHPP will continue to fight every restriction to protect our patients.



Make a local impact with your gift today!

Patients come to us knowing they will receive the care they need and deserve, delivered with warmth and respect. Please consider a gift to our annual fund to support our ability to provide seamless abortion care at all three health centers.

We hope we can count on your local support today.



UHPP Spring Gala 2023: Strengthen Abortion Access

On Friday May 12, UHPP hosted our sold-out Spring Gala at the Kenmore Ballroom in downtown Albany. With over 250 guests in attendance, we celebrated New York State's legacy of choice, we honored the leadership, passion, and tenacity of our coalition partners, volunteers, and advocates.

We recognized the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany with our Volunteer of the Year Award, and In Our Own Voices, Inc. and the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region each with the Coalition and Community Partner Award.

Phoebe Powell Bender was awarded the inaugural Assemblymember George Michaels Award for Bravery. This award was named for Assemblymember George Michaels, who in 1970, cast the tiebreaking vote that legalized abortion in New York State. We were so pleased to commemorate Assemblymember Michaels's political bravery and celebrate the fearless advocacy of a local champion. His granddaughters and great-granddaughters joined the celebration virtually, with a moving video honoring his legacy.

The success of the 2023 Spring Gala will help UHPP in its important work to ensure access to health care—especially access to abortion—does not depend on who you are, where you live, or how much money you make.



Hudson Health Center Expands to Five Days a Week



UHPP expanded the Hudson Health Center hours to five days a week by adding Friday appointments from 9 am to 5 pm, due to increased demand for our services. The health center, located at 804 Columbia Street in downtown Hudson, will serve more people in Columbia, Greene and Berkshire Counties, offering reproductive health care, abortion, sexual health education, transgender care, mental health counseling and more.

"Planned Parenthood is committed to providing a place where patients feel valued and respected, providing the best care, no matter what. We were excited to grow our Hudson health center as we continue to be a valued provider of care in the community." Marielle McKasty-Stagg, Chief Operating Officer at UHPP.

NYS Budget Update

UHPP and our supporters had been advocating for numerous budget related priorities during the 2023 legislative session. We are happy to report that we did achieve some gains: The enacted budget contains a Medicaid reimbursement rate increase to family planning services (of 30%) and a Medicaid reimbursement rate for some abortion services. Unfortunately, the final agreement does not include an increase in Medicaid reimbursement for medication abortion (which represents nearly 70% of all abortions UHPP provides). The enacted budget also contains \$25 million in abortion access grant funding, a continuation of the investment the Governor announced last May—in the wake of the leak of the Dobbs decision. It also includes an additional \$10 million in security grant funding. Overall, New York State continues to support the services we offer. For that and many other reasons we are so grateful to be serving our community right here, in New York.



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