

The Full Mar Monte SUPPORTERS EDITION



LETTER FROM THE CEO Sarah Weddington, 1945-2021: A friend and an inspiration

Hello Friends,

I want to wish you a Happy New Year and thank you again for all you have done for our patients and communities. Your stalwart support will be especially important in 2022 as we face what is likely to be a devastating blow to abortion rights when the extreme conservative Supreme Court rules this spring on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, a case about Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban.

Thinking about this clear and present danger to the 50-year legal precedent established by *Roe v. Wade* made the recent death of attorney Sarah Weddington, in December, even more poignant for so many of us. Sarah, who was a friend and "shero" to me, was only 26 when she represented "Jane Roe" in the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court case that would transform reproductive rights and health care for millions of Americans.

I had a special connection with Sarah from the first time we met. I was leading the Planned Parenthood affiliate in Montana, and she hailed from Texas. Many of the women who had helped Sarah with the *Roe* case had moved to Montana and were donors to my affiliate. Whenever she and I would see each other at events or speaking engagements, she'd always immediately say, "How is Montana?"

She was also a devoted fan of girls basketball – which was huge in Montana – and both my daughters were playing at the time. I gave her a copy of a Montana PBS film, "Class C: The Only Game in Town," which chronicled the journey of five girls basketball teams from the smallest schools in Montana to win the state championship. Sarah loved it.

Of course, it was no surprise that a story about young women displaying great skill and tenacity to triumphantly beat the odds would resonate with her. As the mother of five adult children, I am still astonished by how young Sarah was when she argued *Roe* in front of the Supreme Court. It is such a powerful reminder that people can make a huge difference even early on in their lives and careers.

It took immense courage for her to do what she did. "Courage," meaning not the absence of fear, but being fearful and taking action anyway. Sarah was unshakable in her beliefs that every person deserves reproductive freedom and complete autonomy over their own bodies. Something she said will always stay with me: "It is unthinkable to allow complete strangers, whether individually or collectively as state legislators or others in government, to make such personal decisions for someone else."

Your donors and supporters believe this too, and that's why every contribution matters. We have also taken meaningful action in many other ways, including making it clear to everyone in your personal and professional networks how important it is to vote. The hard-right majority on the Supreme Court – far out of step with the majority of American opinion – is a very sobering reminder of how elections have consequences.

It is heart-breaking to me that, in the waning days of her life, Sarah saw that the ruling in the landmark Supreme Court case she won nearly a half-century ago poised to be overturned. If that happens and states in more than half the country ban abortion, many people will come to California and Nevada, where that right is strongly protected, for the care they need. And we will be ready.

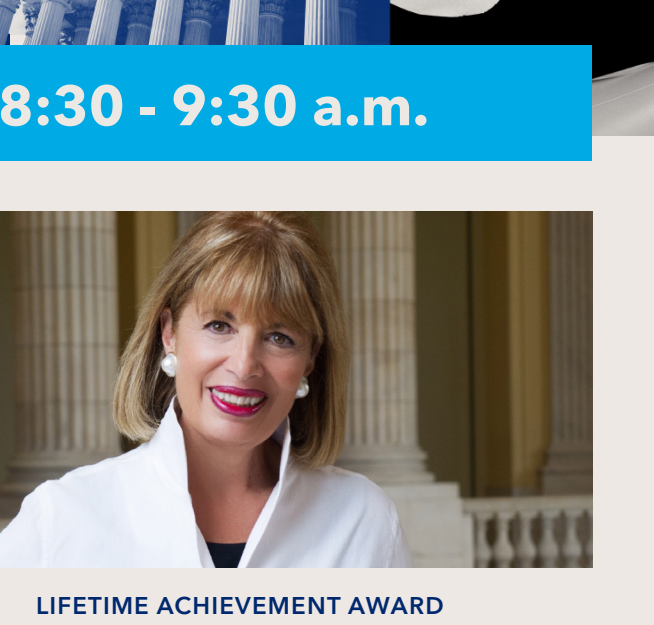
Our donors truly give freedom to patients they will never know and never meet. Like the memory of my friend Sarah, that kind of empathy and action inspires me every day.

With deep gratitude,

Stacy

PENINSULA BREAKFAST

2022 VIRTUAL EVENT SERIES:
ACCESS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE



Friday, March 11, 2022 • 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

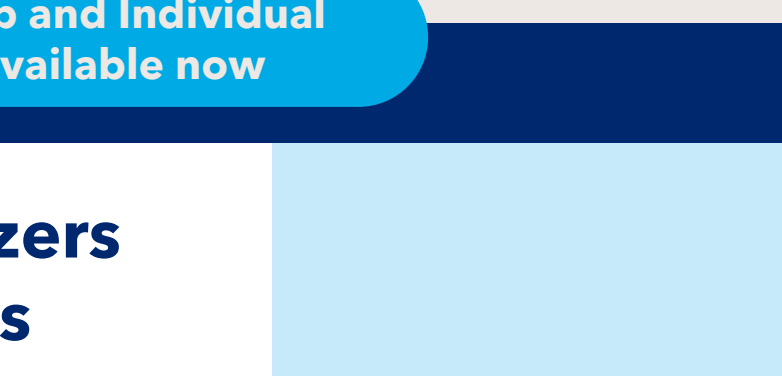
Please mark your calendars for **Planned Parenthood Mar Monte's 27th annual Peninsula Breakfast** – a virtual event on Friday, March 11.

This year's event honors California **U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier** with a Lifetime Achievement Award for a career dedicated to Planned Parenthood, women's equality, LGBTQ rights, and social justice. Since 2008, Rep. Speier has represented not only her San Mateo County congressional district with inspiring leadership and steadfast commitment, but the reproductive rights movement as well.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
The Honorable Jackie Speier (CA-14)

Also, we're thrilled to have as our featured speaker, Illinois **U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood**, the youngest Black woman ever elected to Congress as well as a fierce advocate for maternal health of Black women and health care equity.



FEATURED SPEAKER
The Honorable Lauren Underwood (IL-14)

The Peninsula Breakfast is the second of three events in our 2022 virtual event series. Proceeds from the Access is Non-Negotiable Virtual Event Series will ensure that Planned Parenthood Mar Monte can continue providing care, no matter what – while building capacity to help those unable to seek abortion care in their home states if *Roe v. Wade* falls.

We hope you can join us. Together, we'll work to increase access to health care for our communities.

Sponsorship and Individual Tickets available now

PP Gen Action organizers are leading on campus

Community organizers in PPM's Public Affairs department have revitalized our PP Gen Action student activists groups with eight thriving groups on campuses throughout our affiliate: **CSU Sacramento, Fresno City College, San José State University, Stanford University, UC Davis, UC Merced, UC Santa Cruz, and University of Reno, Nevada**. Here's an update on some of the great work they're doing now.



Stanford PP Gen Action chapter's campus Roe anniversary event, and (below) a flyer for its upcoming LARC teach-in – just a small sample of the amazing work by our PP Gen Action chapters throughout the affiliate!

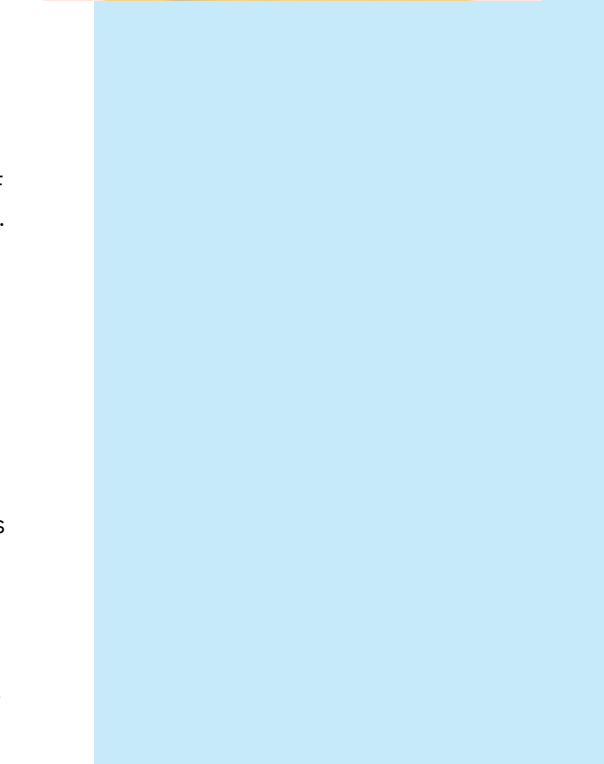
After a well-deserved holiday break, PP Gen Action chapters on college campuses across the affiliate have begun dreaming up exciting in-person and virtual engagement opportunities, such as demonstrations, educational and sexual health awareness events, "condom crawls," and even student book clubs that challenge preconceived notions about feminism. Discuss!

Our community organizers, who work with Gen Action groups, engage students by helping to build their organizing skills and mobilize them to participate in our movement's critical work, including phone-banking and speaking at public meetings.

The aim is also to inspire them to join Planned Parenthood's mission in the future as they become public officials, donors, and health care professionals. In fact, two of our current Gen Action students are hoping to attend medical school and specialize in reproductive health.

A snapshot of what PP Gen Actioners are up to this semester:

• The Stanford Generation Action chapter recently held a very well-attended demonstration and tabling event focused on the 49th – and possibly last – anniversary of landmark Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*. Students are emboldening their peers to get involved in the reproductive rights movement by educating them about how much is at stake.



Stanford's Planned Parenthood Club hosts a session to help students figure out the pros and cons of long-term birth control options & how to access them. Presentation from Dr. Bamberg from Planned Parenthood with time for Q&A.

Stanford PP Gen Action leaders are also revving up supporter energy to bring back their popular long-term reversible contraceptive (LARC) event, hosted by PPM's very own, Dr. Debbie B. The group had sponsored the LARC information session annually, and Dr. B. has been a favorite emcee.

• At the University of Nevada, Reno chapter, PP Gen Actioners are committed to increasing STI-testing accessibility on campus and intend to rally raise awareness by hosting a "condom crawl," where students go to popular campus spots and hand out small goodie bags packed with condoms, safe sex tips, and cards with contact information of local health care providers.

Condom crawls are one of the core tactics that chapters use to encourage safer sex practices on campus communities.

• In the Central Valley, the Fresno City College chapter continues to make us proud by engaging in what is known in community organizing circles as "mutual aid efforts." The mutual aid philosophy is that, rather than depending on structured institutions, people are encouraged to assume responsibility for caring for one another by taking direct, personal action. Mutual aid efforts are a cornerstone of intersectional movement-building and recognizing the whole person.

FCC student leaders have used grant funds to purchase basic hygiene products, like shampoo and deodorant. They are then distributed during campus tabling events, helping to ensure that all students regardless of socioeconomic background have access to daily essentials.

Building and establishing these different opportunities to connect with their community is a powerful opportunity for the Fresno City College chapter to form deep connections and establish relationships with their peers.

• The chapter at UC Davis, known as Students for Reproductive Freedom, recently purchased 23 copies of *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall and distributed them to their membership. Eve, co-president of the chapter, writes, "Hood Feminism highlights the intersections of race, class, gender, ability, and sexual orientation through anecdotal storytelling and the critical analysis of topics that mainstream feminism has neglected." With this new resource, the chapter hopes to build a theoretical foundation to inform future organizing efforts.

These foundational actions are a great start to the rest of the school year, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for our chapters on their journey to achieving their campus campaign and recruitment goals!

If you're interested in seeing a closer look into the work that they're doing, follow them on Instagram:

- @stanfordplannedparenthood
- @genactvn
- @fresnoplannedpclub
- @srufcd

Being Memorable

In this space, we spotlight health center staff members who have been mentioned by name in patient surveys for delivering a fantastic patient experience.

Putting herself "in patients' shoes"

Here's what one patient said about health services specialist (HSS) Seleste A. after a recent visit to our Merced health center:

"Seleste was great, multi-tasking, answering phones, checking in appointments, completing intake paperwork requirements, and upholding customer service. She was the only individual working the front desk, but did so with a smile and was apologetic for the wait."

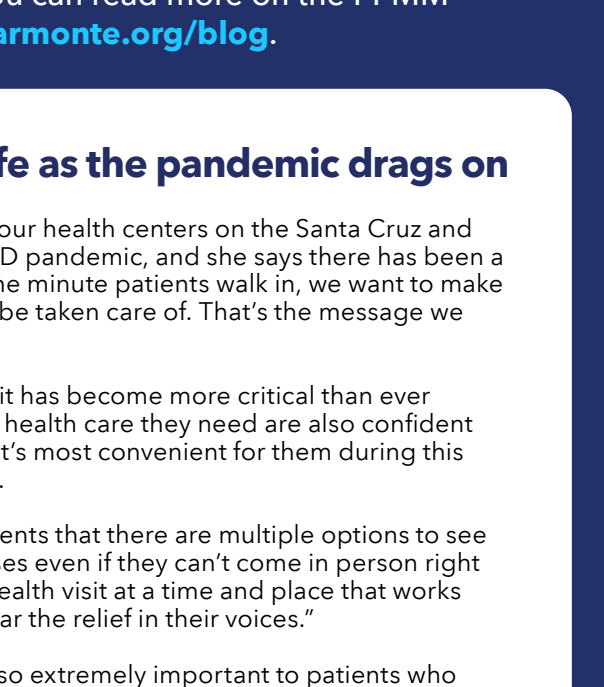
Making sure that patients who come in to the health center are checked in right away is one way health services specialist, Seleste A. makes sure they know she realizes that their time is valuable.

"I want to be sure I answer all questions they may have and let them know, if they're walk-ins, that even if they can't be seen right away at our health center, they may be able to get a same-day telehealth appointment at another center," Seleste said. "Also, I really don't want them to feel rushed when they are asking me questions about their appointment and our services."

Seleste explained that her approach to patient care is based on how she has felt when she's been a patient at other health care providers: "One thing that's very important to me when I'm seeking health services for myself is that I feel like people at the front desk care about me and why I'm there – and that they don't just want to get me in and out."

"When people come in to our center, it's easy for me to put myself in their shoes. I know that, just like me, they don't have a lot of time to wait to be seen," she said. "I want them to feel that I am focused on being sure they are seen as quickly as possible and getting all the information they need."

That's what we mean by "patient-centered care." Thanks, Seleste!



Merced HSS Seleste A.

FROM THE EDUCATION DESK

PromotorX Snapshot

PromotorX is a community-led peer education program in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties that honors, nourishes, and affirms the lived experiences of our Latinx communities by hosting virtual platicas (community chats) or one-to-one sex ed conversations. With the support of a PPFA grant, we're now creating a PromotorX Hybrid Program Kit that can be implemented by affiliates as well as other community organizations.

Topics selected for the kit were based on feedback from PromotorX and community members who participated in platicas and include: Anatomy, healthy relationships, safer sex, talking to a trusted adult, STIs, consent, and menopause. Each core content topic will be covered in two separate sessions:

• Using an Equity Centered Community Design (ECCD) module designed to facilitate discussion of the core content topic through a social justice lens. Discussions are broken down into five sections: History & Healing, People, Systems, Power, and Action. PromotorX members explore the cultural significance of each topic as experienced by the Latinx community, while also identifying solutions for addressing barriers to community wellness.

• Using a Watch Learn Do (WLD) module, which is designed to educate PromotorX members on each topic while also training them on facilitating a session about the topic. Sessions are broken down by lecture on the topic (Watch), activity to incorporate learning (Learn), and training on facilitating the lesson (Do). Once a member completes a WLD session, they are then able to present the same materials to communities through platicas and one-to-ones.

"What I'm most excited for this year's PromotorX group is to see the different dynamics that the group has to offer. This year we have different age groups and it's exciting to see the two different generations working together to make a difference in their communities."
– Kevin Z., facilitator

"Mi experiencia es conmovedora, no solo por mi sino porque he tomado mas información para sentirme capaz de compartir con mi familia, hija y esposo. Motivó en mi para continuar en este servicio. Me entusiasma sentirme capaz de orientar a las personas que me rodean fuera de mi familia para así aportar un poco a nuestra comunidad que tanto lo necesita." – Melina, 1st year PromotorX

Translation: My experience is touching, not only because of me but because I have taken more information to feel able to share with my family, daughter, and husband. I motivated myself to continue in this service. I am excited to feel able to guide the people around me outside my family so that I can contribute a little to our much-needed community.

"Hasta ahora mi experiencia es buena con la clase. La verdad aun me cuesta hablar de estos temas, es algo nuevo para mí. Pero es algo que sé que es necesario y quiero aprender. Lo que me entusiasma es el aprender la información y de los programas/ayuda disponible para nuestra comunidad y poder distribuirla." – Yadira, 1st year PromotorX

Translation: So far my experience is good with the class. The truth is still difficult for me to talk about these issues, it is something new to me. But it is something I know is necessary, and I want to learn. What I am excited about is learning the information and program that is available to our community and being able to distribute it.

Support your local Planned Parenthood today! **DONATE** >