

page 4

ROE V. WADE **OVERTURNED**



The Voice

Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood

Summer 2022

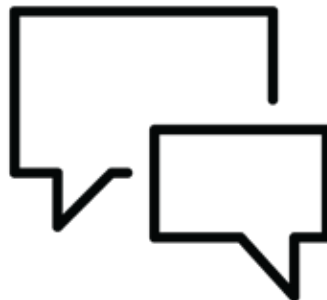


page 6-7

ANNUAL REPORT

page 8

PROVIDING SEX ED





Letter from CEO, Linda McCarthy

Today's article is one that I never believed I'd have to write.

It's hard to put into words the devastation we've been watching unfold in the days since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, destroying almost 50 years of abortion care that improved the health and lives of generations.

Although the leaked version was an early warning, many of us had hoped that the final version might not be so harsh, but as you know, that wasn't the case.

This is a sad and dangerous time if you live in one of the 26 states that have either already made abortion illegal or will soon do so, stripping bodily autonomy from every person at risk of pregnancy in those states.

I was choked with emotion on a call recently, listening to a sister affiliate talk about the trauma of having to inform patients already prepped for their abortion, IV in arms, that the decision overturning *Roe* was released. With abortion no longer legal in Texas, their abortion was cancelled and they could not proceed with care.

Real people and real lives are being devastated across America.

Forced pregnancy has been well researched and what we know is that carrying an unintended pregnancy to term has lasting impact. Not only is delivery 14 times more deadly than abortion, but forced pregnancy disproportionately affects lower income communities and people of color.

Forcing people to become parents when they aren't ready is not only cruel but has significant and lasting effects.

Unintended pregnancies are related to delayed prenatal care, higher risks of miscarriage, low birth weight infants, severe postpartum depression, and down the line, higher instances of depression rates, suicidal thoughts, and physical and psychological violence. 27% of people who were denied an abortion reported having fair or poor health five years later.

And although many of these states outlawing abortion say they will allow abortion to save the life of the mother, provider autonomy in caring for

patients is also impacted because of the many nuances of these state laws which include allowing anyone associated with helping a pregnant person access an abortion to sue that helper directly. Providers are left in a terrible situation wondering if they will get sued if they perform a procedure they believe is medically necessary, or, if they don't perform the procedure because the laws are hard to understand (or the hospital won't

MBPP Mission

To ensure every individual has the knowledge, opportunity, and freedom to advance their sexual and reproductive health.

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allow it), will they get sued if the procedure is ultimately deemed medically necessary. Suddenly, politicians are in the exam room standing between the patient and their health care provider, directing that care.

There are real life consequences to blocking access to abortion.

I've been thinking of the youngest patient who received an abortion at MBPP, and although she wasn't yet a teenager, she was an incest victim. She was determined that she wanted an abortion (even with a police officer standing outside the exam room waiting to take possession of the DNA that ultimately convicted her perpetrator) a procedure that allowed her to pick up with her life again and enjoy her childhood.

That same situation is occurring in states TODAY...patients with no voice and no choice. Instead, their life course is redirected by a rapist and supported by politicians who have given themselves the authority to make medical decisions for every pregnant person in their state. There is something very wrong with this picture.

While I am heartbroken for what is occurring in more than half of America, it is a bit of a relief to live in the great State of Washington.

Our state was the first in the nation to legalize abortion by a vote of the people in 1970 and we have reaffirmed support for abortion numerous times over the years. In addition, shortly following the SCOTUS decision, the governors of Washington, Oregon, and California announced they would work together to ensure access and that they would:

- Direct their local law enforcement agencies not to cooperate with out-of-state investigations or arrests related to people who have traveled to the west coast to legally obtain an abortion there.
- Take steps to protect patients seeking abortions against the misuse of their medical records.
- Work on legislation protecting medical professionals who legally perform abortion in our three states against professional censure by licensing boards or adverse actions by their liability insurance providers.

We are grateful that we have the strongest protections in place and a supportive government to expand those protections, so we can care for patients in need as they are already making their way to our area, and that was before many of these states implemented their bans.

So, the question on most people's minds is: "How can I help?"

VOTE! Register those you know to VOTE. Educate people about the importance of VOTING.

Tell **YOUR** story! Everyone knows someone who has had an abortion. Sharing your experience helps people know they are not alone and brings abortion into light as what it is - health care.

VOLUNTEER. We are developing many opportunities for volunteers to get involved. Sign up today!

Make your friends, our friends! **HOST** and invite us to a house party to discuss the issues.

DONATE to MBPP and to other causes that make a difference.

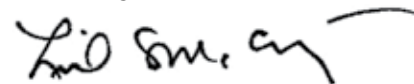
EDUCATE those you know to pass the word for others: abortionfinder.org (also details laws in each state.)

And most importantly, help us spread the word:

**Our doors stay open.
You are welcome here.**

Thank you for your support and for standing with Planned Parenthood!

In this together,



If you would like to dialogue about this article, please contact me at: lmccarthy@mbpp.org

Links for the action items listed above can be found on page 10.

Roe v. Wade is Overturned; What Does this Mean for Washington State?

On June 24, 2022, The Supreme Court of the United States confirmed our worst fears; *Roe* was overturned, marking the first time in history we have lost a constitutional right. For today, Washingtonians maintain these rights, but there is much more at stake.

Across the nation.

Lawmakers have been systematically stripping access to abortion; this ruling will have a ripple effect. As we have seen Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Florida, and Idaho pass abortion bans in the past year, we can expect to see more states use this decision to call for special sessions to take away abortion rights in their states too.



In Washington, abortion will remain safe and legal, thanks to the Affirm Washington Abortion Access Act, signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee in March 2022, to better ensure the ability of Washington abortion care providers to serve any person who comes to the state seeking an abortion. After SCOTUS released their opinion, the governors of California, Oregon, and Washington issued a Multi-State Commitment (referred to as the “West Coast Offense”) to defend access to reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptives, and committed to protecting patients and doctors against efforts by other states to export their abortion bans to our states.

Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood is proud to provide safe, legal abortion, and will continue to do so. We cannot speak to the operational decisions of Planned Parenthood or independent providers in other states. But we know that Planned Parenthood health centers in states that are extremely hostile to reproductive rights are being forced to make the difficult decision whether or not to suspend providing abortion services. They are in this position because of the court’s decision to end the federal constitutional right to abortion and their own state’s legal landscape. MBPP will do all we can to meet the needs of patients who come to us for care, including those forced to travel from out of state.

A future without *Roe*.

The consequences of this Supreme Court decision were swift and devastating for communities nationwide: Several of the 26 states with Bans implemented them immediately and many others are scrambling to enact restrictions within the month. That’s half the country where people no longer will have power over their own bodies and lives. That means 36 million people at risk of pregnancy – nearly half of potential child bearers of reproductive age (18-49) in the United States –could soon lose abortion access.

As we know, banning abortion does not take away people’s need to access abortion care. And we know that abortion bans disproportionately harm Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other people of color because of this country’s legacy of racism and discrimination. People who do not have access to the resources and support they need to travel out of state

or aren't aware that help is out there for them, will be forced to carry pregnancies against their will.

There have always been barriers to access abortion and other health services – like the need to find childcare, take time off work- but add to that the need to navigate the costs of transportation and lodging associated with traveling hundreds or even thousands of miles for care. The number of people forced to overcome these huge hurdles to essential health care will skyrocket. It will also unleash a variety of risks: doctors, patients and even people who help someone get an abortion in a banned state could be subject to criminal prosecution; so could people who use common forms of contraception like IUCs; even people seeking treatment for miscarriage could be caught up in criminal investigations.

As mentioned, our rights in Washington are maintained, for now, but abortion rights are just the beginning. As we have seen across the country, hundreds of anti-LGBTQ (and more specifically, anti-trans) bills have been introduced. And, as Justice Thomas indicates in his ruling, he believes it is time to relook at other areas protected under the "right to privacy" including gay rights, gay marriage, and the legalization of birth control (yes, you read that correctly.)

The stakes we are up against make us more committed than ever to ensure everyone has access to the sexual and reproductive health care they need. And we won't give up. Not now. Not ever. We have a tough road ahead of us. It is your support and your commitment that fuel this organization. Together, we will fight with everything we've got so that all people have access to the services they need to control their body, their life, and their future. No matter where they live.

Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood stands for care. As Alexis McGill Johnson, President and CEO of PPFA says so eloquently: "We are going to get care to people and people to care!"

WITH *ROE V. WADE* OVERTURNED:

36 MILLION WOMEN

plus those who are able to get pregnant are at risk of losing abortion access in their state.

26 STATES

are projected to outlaw or severely restrict abortions, with nine having bans already in place.

75% OF ABORTION PATIENTS

live below the poverty line; 28% of all abortion patients are Black and 25% are Hispanic.

276 MILES

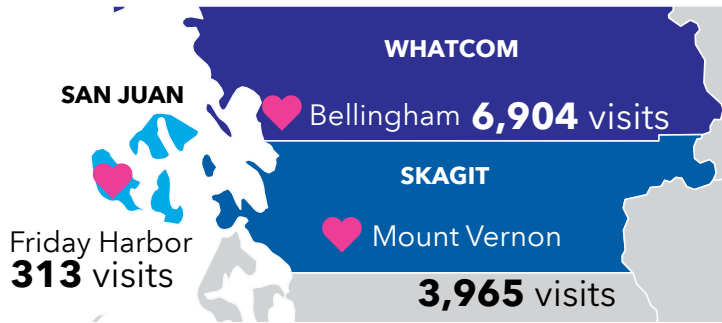
is the average distance people will have to travel to access abortion where it remains legal.

OVER HALF OF AMERICANS

still believe abortion should be legal in all 50 states.

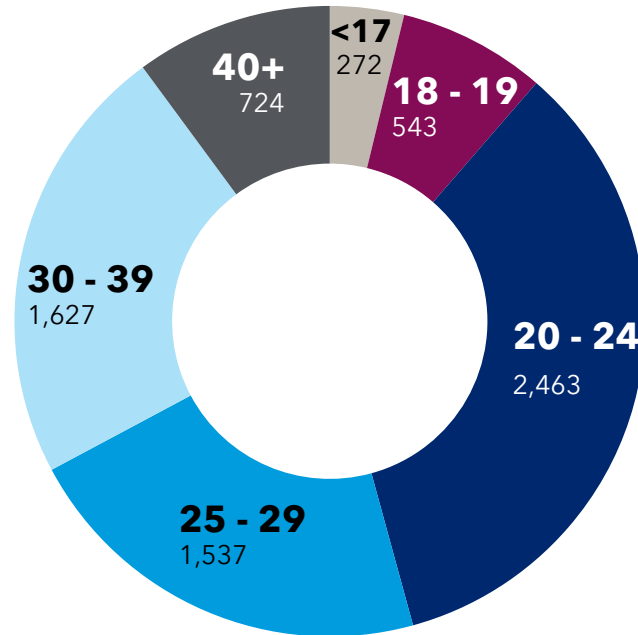
MBPP Annual Report 2021

11,182 total visits



7,166 total patients

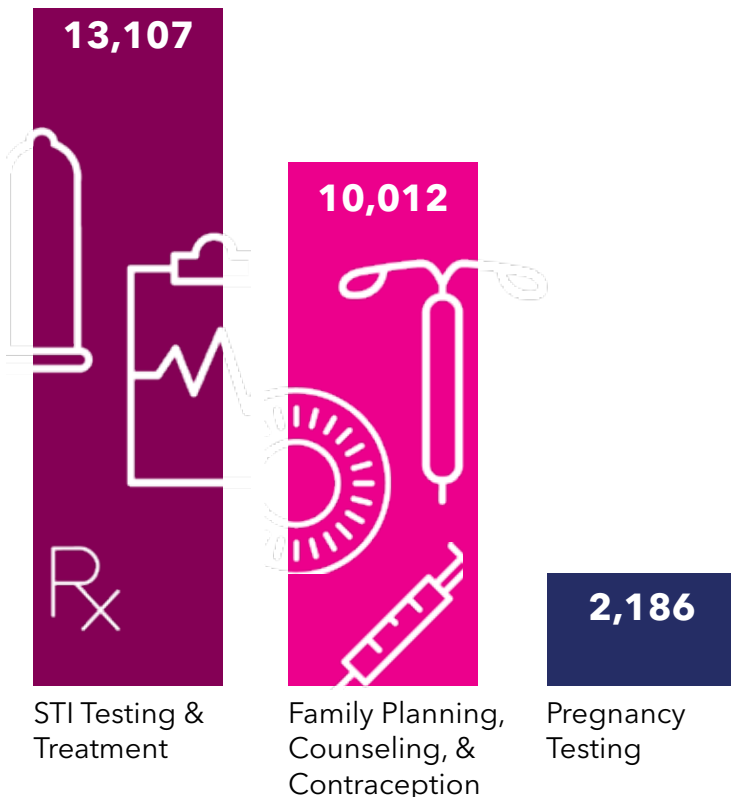
Patient Age Distribution



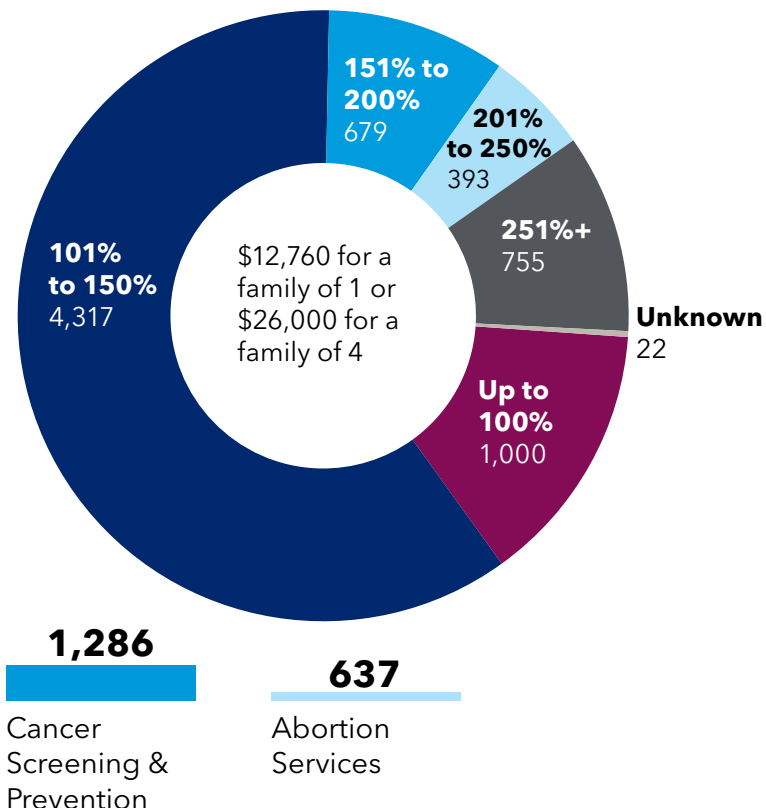
27,228 services

Select Clinical Services

In 2021, our health centers saw 7,166 patients, who collectively received 27,228 services over 11,182 clinical visits.



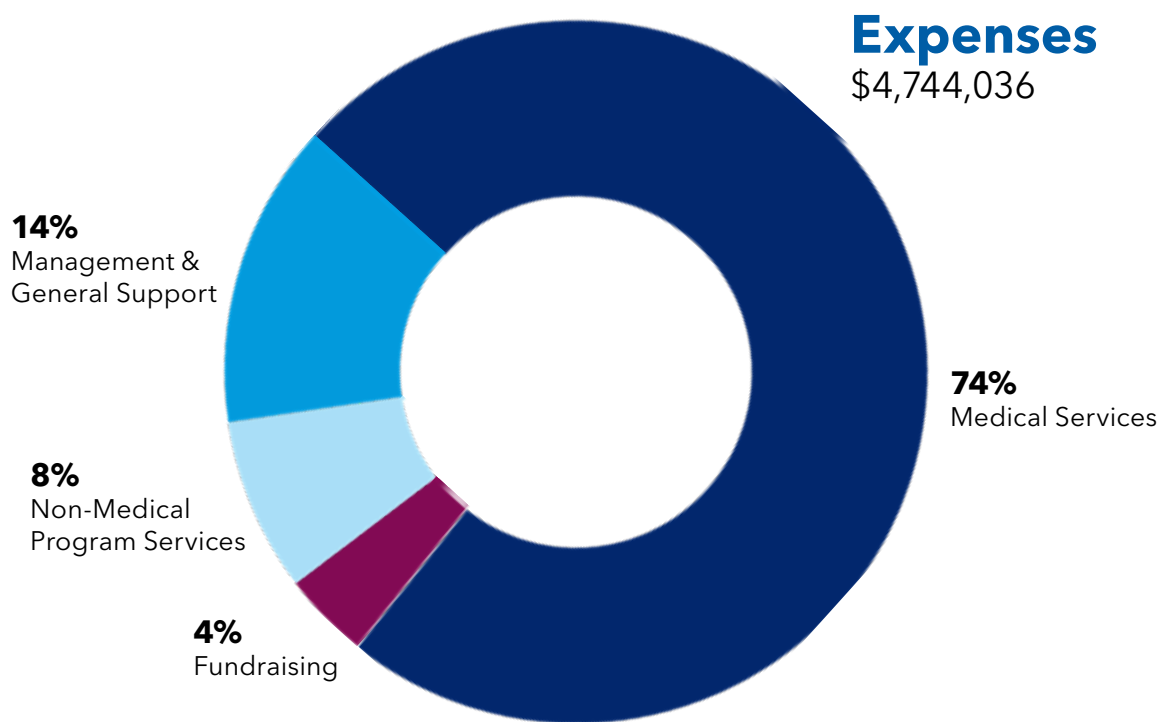
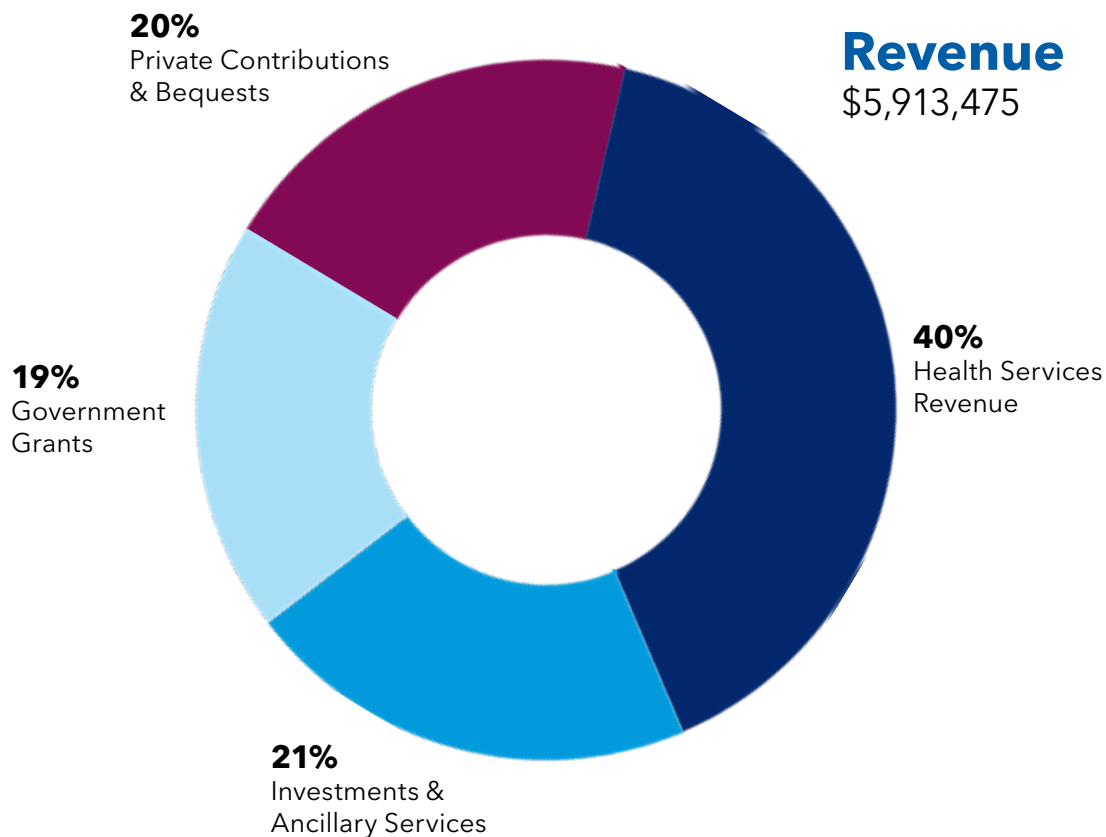
Number of Patients at Federal Poverty Level



1,286
Cancer Screening & Prevention

637
Abortion Services

Revenue and Expenses



MBPP Sexual Health Education Programming

The MBPP Education Department was pleased to resume in-person education during the 2021-22 school year! As pandemic restrictions were lifted, educators were able to return programming to classrooms, utilizing masks, vaccines, and distancing to keep our staff and students safe and healthy.

In Whatcom County, educational programming was provided to 2,089 students this school year at the following locations:

- Bellingham, Sehome, Squalicum, and Options High Schools
- All 14 Bellingham Public Schools Elementary Schools plus the Family Partnership Program
- Mount Baker High School
- Whatcom Community College
- Bellingham Technical College
- Cedar Tree Montessori and Meadows Montessori



Teen Council members reviewing ways consent is expressed with a class at Squalicum High School.

Our Education team was also able to provide programming to Spring Street International School in Friday Harbor! We are excited to welcome a new Bilingual Community Health Educator for Skagit County this June and plan to resume educational programming in Skagit County this summer and fall.

Topics covered in different settings included:

5th Grade	Puberty & Hygiene, HIV & AIDS
High School	STI & Pregnancy Prevention, Consent, Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation
WCC & BTC Nursing Students	LGBTQ+ Inclusivity & Effective Communication with Teen Patients
WCC International Students	Dating & Safety in the United States
Montessori Schools	Reproductive Anatomy, Bodily Autonomy, Puberty & Hygiene, Gender Identity, Healthy Relationships
High School/Young Adults	Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities programs such as Relationships, Consent, Anatomy, Pregnancy & Protection, and STIs

Perspective from a Community Health Educator

"Providing sexual health education through this pandemic has been and continues to be challenging in numerous ways. This year I was extremely grateful to be able to return to providing in-person education. I know that working with students in the classroom is much more effective than teaching Sex Education via Zoom, as we did through the previous school year. I see students who are much more engaged with the content, asking great questions, and having insightful discussions with their peers.

One of the positives I see as a result of the pandemic is in the increased knowledge young people have about the transmission of viruses and bacteria. It is much easier to explain HIV to a 5th grader in 2022 than it was in 2019. They already understand how immune systems in our bodies work to keep us healthy by fighting off germs, they know that different viruses can spread in different ways, and understand the importance of testing when there has been a risk of exposure, even when one is asymptomatic. I am hopeful that this increased understanding will follow them as they get older and lead to more awareness and responsibility later in life when it comes to STI testing, the use of protection, and reduced stigma in conversations about STI testing & treatment.

I also see the effects the disconnection and isolation has had on students in our community. Some students who have had unfettered access to the internet and social media know much more about sexual behaviors than I'd been accustomed to for their age. This is concerning with the consideration that young people may be at increased risk for grooming, learning medically inaccurate information, or seeing something harmful. However, there may be positive outcomes for others. Maybe some of these young people are more inclined to ask questions to the adults in their lives about these topics, start conversations, and receive honest information. Certainly there are many who have been able to learn more about gender identities and sexual orientations and find labels that help them understand themselves better and express who they are! Overall this points to a greater need in our community to be having more conversations with young people about sex and sexuality and online safety!" - Erin Montgomery, MBPP Community Health Educator

...continued from previous page

Whatcom Teen Council (TC) was also able to return to an in-person model this year! We met weekly at the Bellingham Health Center to train TC members on reproductive health topics and practice classroom presentation skills. TC participated in a virtual Teen Lobby Day in January, meeting with state senators and representatives via Zoom. TC members lobbied to allow advanced practice clinicians to offer abortion and to increase oversight in health entity mergers in Washington State.

In the 2022-23 school year we are looking forward to continuing supporting schools as they plan and implement comprehensive sexual health education (CSHE) as required by SB 5395. This bill requires all public schools in Washington state offer age appropriate CSHE starting in kindergarten.

Our Education Department continues to receive overwhelming support and demand from our community. With additional resources, we hope to be able to expand programming to reach more youth and explore sexual health topics in depth in each community. To learn more or for questions, please contact us at Education@mbpp.org.

Helpful Resources

Links:

Voter Registration

www.voter.votewa.gov

MBPP Volunteer

www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-mt-baker/get-involved-locally/volunteer

Northwest Abortion Access Fund

www.nwaafund.org

Abortion Providers

www.abortionfinder.org

National Network of Abortion Funds

www.abortionfunds.org

Reproductive Justice

www.sistersong.net

Center for Reproductive Rights

www.reproductiverights.org

Information via Guttmacher Institute

www.guttmacher.org/abortion-rights-supreme-court

NPR on *The Turnaway Study* (listen)

www.npr.org/2022/06/24/1107362961/the-public-health-implications-of-overturning-roe-v-wade

Know Your Rights: Reproductive Health Care

www.reproductiverights.gov

Reading List:

Marty, R. & Palmer, A. (2021) *New Handbook for a Post-Roe America: The Complete Guide to Abortion Legality, Access, and Practical Support*

Roberts, D. (1998) *Killing the Black Body*

Greene Foster, D. (2021) *The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having—or Being Denied—an Abortion*

Cooper Owens, D. (2017) *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*



Your Gifts Matter

Everything we do at Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood is possible because of YOU. Our donors are the reason we can serve thousands of patients each year. Your gift supports medical services, education programming, and advocacy efforts in your community today and in the future. Thank you!

Ways to Donate

CHECKS

Please make payable to MBPP and mail to:
1509 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

CREDIT CARD | ONLINE

Visit our secure website at:
www.wearepp.org/givemt baker

From your smartphone, use this QR barcode to be linked to our secure online giving form to make your donation today.



WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

If your employer conducts a workplace giving campaign through entities such as United Way, Benevity, YourCause, or TRUiST, you may be able to designate MBPP as a beneficiary.

CORPORATE MATCHING

Many companies will match employee donations. Contact your Human Resources department or business office to inquire about eligibility and matching gifts forms. State employees designation #0316035 and Federal employees designation #78843.

PLANNED GIVING | GIFTS OF STOCK

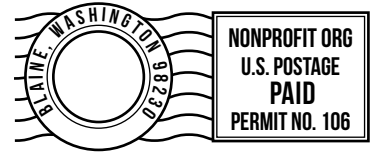
Please contact your financial advisor, estate planner, or MBPP's Development department.

What Legacy Do You Want to Leave?

Our Development department is here to assist you in meeting your philanthropic goals.
360.603.7703 | standwithpp@mbpp.org



Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
1509 Cornwall Avenue | Bellingham, WA 98225



Administration Office

1509 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.734.9007

Bellingham Health Center

1530 Ellis Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.734.9095

Mount Vernon Health Center

1805 East Division Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98274
360.848.1744

Friday Harbor Health Center

470 Reed Street, Unit A
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360.378.6010

www.plannedparenthood.org/mbpp

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In addition to communications from MBPP you may receive appeals directly from Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). Donations to PPFA support national media, advocacy, and international programs, rather than local services.

IMMEDIATE WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Visit BansOff.org to learn more about the abortion crisis and how you can take action!

Text RALLY to 22422 to stay up-to-date with the court's decision and how you can help in your community.

Share your story. Stay loud and active. Don't stop speaking out after this moment.
ppact.io/sharestory

Encourage family and friends to vote!
voter.votewa.gov

