

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2022

EDITION



Planned Parenthood Southeast Advocates

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ABOUT PPSEA

As the organizing, advocacy, and electoral arm of Planned Parenthood Southeast, Planned Parenthood Southeast Advocates (PPSEA) engages in grassroots lobbying and electoral activities, including voter education and mobilization.

We believe elected officials should support policies and programs that protect and expand reproductive rights and access to health care. PPSEA works to educate and mobilize the public and elect lawmakers who support these policies.

ADVOCATE. NO MATTER WHAT.

As part of protecting and advancing sexual and reproductive rights and health, we track legislation proposed by state lawmakers in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi.

Our state-level advocacy looms more critical than ever in recent history, as federal programs and protections for sexual and reproductive health are under attack.

With our legislative agenda we hope to:

- Expand and defend Planned Parenthood patients' continued access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care services
- Broaden our alliances within our communities, recognizing the intersectionality of community issues, and the synergy within our movement

Keep reading to learn about the bills we saw this session and how they impact sexual and reproductive health and rights across our affiliate, as well as how Planned Parenthood patients are affected more broadly.



2022 SESSION BY THE NUMBERS:

16

**ANTI-ABORTION
BILLS DEFEATED**

273

**EMAILS AND PETITIONS
TO LEGISLATORS**

187K

**NUMBER OF
SUPPORTERS ENGAGED**

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ALABAMA POST-SESSION BRIEF



05 ALABAMA POST-SESSION BRIEF

The 2022 Alabama legislative session came to a close just after midnight on Thursday, April 7th. There were a total of 339 bills introduced in the Senate and 534 bills introduced in the House of Representatives. Here are some of the most important pieces of legislation that defined this session and how it will impact Alabamians moving forward.

Bills that failed:

- **HB 295**
 - A Texas SB 8 copycat bill that would have placed bounties on anyone assisting people receiving abortions.
- **HB 261**
 - This bill was a medication abortion ban, criminalizing abortion pills and a procedure known to be safe.
- **SB 320 & HB 349**
 - These were both crisis pregnancy center hotline bills that would have created additional hurdles for people seeking abortions, while burdening state budgets and funneling taxpayer dollars to anti-abortion groups.
- **SB 324**
 - This bill would have required all women “of child-bearing age” to produce a pregnancy test from a doctor or laboratory before taking part in otherwise-legal medical marijuana.
- **HB 312**
 - This bill would have prevented so-called “divisive concepts” from being taught in public schools.
- **HB 352**
 - HB 352 would have reduced discrimination for pregnant folks in the workforce. We would have liked to have seen more movement on this bill but we commend Rep. Neil Rafferty (D - Birmingham) for introducing this important legislation.

06 ALABAMA POST-SESSION BRIEF

Bills that have been sent to Governor Ivey:

- **SB 184**

- This bill was in the running for the worst piece of legislation that passed this year. Sponsored by Sen. Shay Shelnett (R - Trussville), it bans gender-affirming health care for minors. Even if a teenager has the cooperation of parents and a physician, they will be forced to go out of state to receive health care that is often vital. Many young people will no longer be able to access the health care they need. This idea was also championed in the House by Rep. Wes Allen (R - Troy), who is running for statewide office this year.

- **HB 322**

- We're also disappointed in the final passage of HB 322 by Rep. Scott Stadthagen (R - Hartselle), a "bathroom and locker room bill" that applies to schools and was unfortunately amended to also be a "don't say gay" bill that will constrain the speech and teaching of our public school teachers.

- **HB 50**

- This bill was a "period poverty" bill, setting up a program to provide free menstrual hygiene products to people in public schools. Sponsored by Rep. Rolanda Hollis (D - Birmingham), it passed with overwhelming support.

- **HB 230**

- This bill (also by Rep. Hollis) greatly restricts the practice of shackling incarcerated pregnant people while they are giving birth.

07 ALABAMA POST-SESSION BRIEF

- The bill to extend Medicaid to a full year postpartum didn't pass as the standalone bill by Rep. Laura Hall (D - Huntsville), but those vital changes and that crucial funding *were* included in the General Fund budget that was signed into law. Thank you Representative Hall!

Now that session is over, we encourage you to contact your lawmakers and voice your feelings about how they voted on these important bills. If your legislators did not represent your views adequately, make sure to let them know! And keep those feelings in mind at the polls later this year. Lawmakers actually hear from fewer constituents than you might expect, so a handful of coordinated voices can really make a difference.

While this session led to many undesirable bills for our state, it's crucial to celebrate the wins we did have and to thank our champions for their dedication to upholding our vision for a better future. Sometimes, we have supporters in surprising places, and we need to thank those folks appropriately so that they know that it's rewarding to work with us. Although the legislative session is over, our work is never done. Thank you for your support!

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GEORGIA POST-SESSION BRIEF

GEORGIA



09 GEORGIA POST-SESSION BRIEF

The Georgia legislative session lasts for 3 months and concluded on Monday, April 4th. This session was an exceptionally busy one, with a potential vote on an anti-abortion bill coming down to the wire on Sine Die.

Here are some of the most important pieces of legislation and how it will impact Georgians moving forward.

The Good:

- **SB 338 Passed**
 - This bill extends Medicaid coverage for low income birthing people from 6 months to 12 months after delivery.
- **HB 1390 Passed**
 - This bill is a retaliation protection bill and will protect city and county workers against retaliation for responding to sexual harassment.
- **SB 504 Did NOT Pass**
 - This bill would have required a cash bail for anyone charged with a felony.
- **SB 171 Did NOT Pass**
 - SB 171 would have incentivized municipalities to crack down on protests and placed restrictions on the right to protest.
- **2022 Budget Passed**
 - (For the fiscal year starting in July) - Allocates funding for period products in Georgia schools.
 - Allocates funding for extending postpartum Medicaid for 12 months after delivery.
 - Allocates funding for \$2,000 teacher raises.
 - Allocates funding for addressing workforce shortages for physicians and nurses.

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The Bad

- **SB 441 Passed**

- This bill was amended to include what was formerly HB 1464. It gives the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) authority over election-related investigations of fraud. This role is currently led by state election officials.

- **HB 1084 Passed**

- This divisive concepts bill was amended to include anti-trans language in regards to athletic participation. It allows local athletic associations to create policies that discriminate against transgender athletes. There was no floor debate about this bill and many legislators didn't even have a chance to read the bill before it passed after midnight on Sine Die.

- **HB 1092 Did NOT Pass (Women's CARE Act)**

- HB 1092 would have allowed pregnant people sentenced by the criminal system to postpone the start of jail time so they could remain in the community during pregnancy, delivery, and the first six weeks after giving birth.

1 1 GEORGIA POST-SESSION BRIEF

On Sine Die, no vote was taken on **SB 456**, a bill that would have prohibited medication abortion via telemedicine and added unnecessary barriers for Georgians to access vital health care. This is a major victory for reproductive rights in Georgia!

We'd like to recognize some of our reproductive rights champions who spoke out against SB 456. Representatives Shelly Hutchinson and Dr. James Beverly advocated for the effectiveness of telehealth visits on behalf of those who need abortion care during the House Human Health and Services Committee hearing. In the Senate, our champions included Senators Nan Orrock, Elena Parent, Gloria Butler, Kim Jackson, Nikki Merritt, Dr. Michelle Au, and Jen Jordan. They each spoke out against SB 456 and opposed the bill during the Senate vote. Thank you to all the legislators who fought back against this restrictive bill! We're also sending special thanks to the women across Georgia who have fought for years to get postpartum Medicaid extended. This initiative was led primarily by women of color and it was a long fight. Thank you for your dedication to help birthing people in Georgia!

Thank you for following along with us as we navigated through a busy session. Thank you to those of you who contacted your legislators, attended a hearing at the Capitol, or helped spread the word on social media - you made a difference in the lives of Georgians and helped ensure access to abortion care for those who need it. We will keep fighting year-round for Georgians to access the reproductive health care they need and deserve.

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MISSISSIPPI POST-SESSION BRIEF

MISSISSIPPI



13 MISSISSIPPI POST-SESSION BRIEF

The 2022 legislative session ended in Mississippi on April 5th. Here's a recap of the legislation we've been tracking for the last three months.

Postpartum Medicaid Coverage

SB 2033 would have extended postpartum Medicaid coverage for parents up to 12 months postpartum. Despite pressure from local ministries, coalition partners, and parents, Speaker Phillip Gunn refused to call up the bill for a vote. Similar legislation passed this session in Alabama and Georgia.

Tax Donations to CPCs

In the final hours of the legislative session, **HB 1685** passed. This bill gives a tax credit to those who choose to donate to crisis pregnancy centers in Mississippi. Our Hattiesburg health center is next door to the Hope Clinic, a crisis pregnancy center.

Critical Race Theory

SB 2113: White Senators in the state where Emmitt Till was murdered passed legislation that prohibits the teaching of critical race theory, shortly before passing legislation that gave teachers the highest pay raise seen in recent history from the Mississippi legislature. The 14 Black Senators walked out during roll call for votes on the bill.

Infrastructure

HB 1031: The "Capital City Water/Sewer Project" would allocate \$40 million to help the City of Jackson to address water and sewer needs. Recall that this time last year, residents of Jackson and other predominantly Black cities in Mississippi experienced a water crisis due to a lack of infrastructure during the winter weather.

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Equal Pay

Mississippi now has equal pay on the books, but this isn't a bill to throw a party for. **HB 777** doesn't provide proper protections to Black women in a state with over 30% of its population comprised of Black people.

Other Items of Note

The legislature ended this session without resolving the issues to Mississippi's ballot initiative process, following the challenge to medical marijuana by the city of Madison's mayor. Mississippi's teacher pay increase also meets the Southeastern average for the first time in history.

While it was a relatively quiet legislative session for reproductive rights, our work is never done. The upcoming SCOTUS decision for the *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* case will decide abortion not only for the state of Mississippi but for the rest of the United States as well. We will continue to fight for reproductive rights in Mississippi and keep advocating for the patients and communities we serve.

15 GET INVOLVED

TAKE ACTION

Join us as we stand up and speak out so that all people have access to the quality, compassionate, reproductive health care they deserve.

[JOIN THE FIGHT](#)

VOLUNTEER

Planned Parenthood volunteers serve in a wide range of capacities, including on the phone, at the Capitol, on campus, online, and in the community.

[VOLUNTEER](#)

SHARE YOUR STORY

It's never been more important to share your story and show that Planned Parenthood is a vital organization in your community. Share your story to show that you have the right to health care without political interference.

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

MAKE A DONATION

Abortion access is on the line — we need you.

[DONATE NOW](#)

