



Meet PPSNE's New Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nancy Stanwood

This past June, Dr. Nancy L. Stanwood, MD, MPH, joined PPSNE as the inaugural full-time Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Stanwood, a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist with 20+ years of experience in clinical practice, medical education, and reproductive health and rights advocacy, has a long-standing relationship with PPSNE. We sat down with Dr. Stanwood to learn more about what brought her to PPSNE and the important work she and our clinicians are doing now as we navigate this post-Roe landscape.

Q: Dr. Stanwood, can you share with our supporters a little background on your history with Planned Parenthood and your career in reproductive health care?

I first walked into a Planned Parenthood health center as a patient seeking contraception when I was in medical school. This care allowed me to focus on becoming a physician so that when I next walked into a Planned Parenthood health center, it was as an abortion care provider.

Since 1998, I have been a proud abortion provider at Planned Parenthood health centers in Michigan, North Carolina, New York, and Connecticut. For the previous eleven years, I served as the Section Chief of Family Planning and Director of the Complex Family Planning fellowship at Yale School of Medicine – while also serving part-time as PPSNE's Associate Medical Director.

As an advocate, I've been a part of organizations such as Physicians for Reproductive Health where I served as board chair, speaking out about the need to center science and patients' needs in reproductive health policy.

Q: What was the catalyst for you to come to PPSNE full-time as the CMO?

In fall of 2021, I saw that the U.S. Supreme Court was poised to end the federal protections of Roe. And I knew that I wanted to commit myself fully to the work of ensuring that people have access to the care they need to live their lives with dignity and to thrive.

There is no doubt we are now in a state of urgency for reproductive health and rights, in addition to the worsening health disparities due to systemic racism. [All people deserve access to the care they need to live their lives with dignity and to thrive.](#) I am proud to be a part of PPSNE, working for health justice across Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Q: You regularly provide testimony during the legislative session and speak with the media. What drives you to be a physician AND an advocate?

As a physician, I have the privilege of treating patients and providing them with the health care they need and deserve. And while one-on-one patient care is immensely fulfilling, it has never felt

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Reshaping Our New Reality

Working together to build the future we want.

The past several months have made it clear that the abortion access crisis is a national public health emergency. As states across the country move to restrict and ban abortion, we have witnessed the devastating impacts on peoples' lives. At the same time, [people are making their voices heard and demanding that reproductive freedom be restored, respected, and protected.](#)

People are passionate, committed, and taking action. An employee at a donut shop in North Kingstown, Rhode Island put out a donation jar and collected over \$3,000 to support PPSNE. A pair of friends in Ridgefield, Connecticut organized a community event drawing over 250 people interested in learning how they can take action. A gallery owner in New Haven, Connecticut is donating a portion of the proceeds from an art show to PPSNE. [Our movement is strong because of these individuals and because of people like you.](#) Your dedicated support and partnership make it possible for us to keep working towards our shared vision of reproductive freedom for all.

The future we are fighting for reflects what the majority of Americans want. Right here in our region, recent polling shows that two-thirds of Rhode Islanders support state legislation that would remove existing financial barriers to accessing abortion care. [The time is now to make real change— to create a post-Roe reality in which barriers to care are removed, and all people have control of their bodies, lives, and futures.](#)

In this issue, you will learn about what drives our new Chief Medical Officer Dr. Nancy Stanwood to be a proud abortion provider and a fierce advocate for systemic change. You will see powerful images of national leaders championing our cause at the federal level. When U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris recently spoke at a Connecticut event, she drew a clear connection between the intersectional issues that impact

peoples' ability to exercise their basic freedoms. She emphasized that [we “are not alone” in the struggle to protect our rights to privacy and autonomy and that like all movements, our power comes in all of us working together.](#)

I couldn't agree more. It is going to take all of us to keep fighting forward so that all people can make the decisions that are best for them, free from shame, stigma, and government interference.



Amanda Skinner, President and CEO

[Thank you for your dedicated support and active engagement in our movement.](#) Together, we are making a difference for our patients and communities today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

In gratitude,
Amanda

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Business Stepping Up to Help Patients

How you or your employer/company can sign on to support patients and the mission of PPSNE.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* set off a cascade of trigger laws banning abortion in many states – and individuals and businesses alike have been stepping up to support people impacted by those laws. National companies like Uber and Amazon have updated employee benefits to include covering travel expenses for abortion care. [Learn more about the national Don't Ban Equality statement at dontbanequality.com](#)

Local businesses in our region are also important supporters of PPSNE and our patients. Prior to the Supreme Court's decision, Rhode Island's favorite, [Allie's Donuts in North Kingstown, RI](#), always encouraged their employees to

identify local causes to support by collecting customer donations. PPSNE was selected by one of Allie's staff members, which resulted in contributions of over \$3,000. This sweet success helped create a broader dialogue about Planned Parenthood, the role of the organization, and the different ways we serve patients in the community.

[Want to learn what you can do to take action as a company, business leader, employee group, or individual worker? Let us know!](#) If you have an idea or would like more information about how you or your business can help Planned Parenthood, please contact Laurie Diorio at laurie.diorio@ppsne.com or 203.752.2813.



**SAVE
THE DATE**

APRIL 3, 2023



ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

In conversation with
Samantha Bee

- » Monday, April 3, 2023
- » Hyatt in Greenwich, CT

Vice-President of the United States Kamala Harris & Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra Talk Abortion Access with PPSNE

Vice President Kamala Harris and Health & Human Services Secretary Javier Becerra both have traveled to Connecticut to talk about abortion access since the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision came down on June 24.

Vice President Kamala Harris joined Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and Congresswoman Jahana Hayes for a conversation about the national landscape for abortion access.



Read the conversation
transcript here:



"When I look around this room, I know we're up for this fight."

VP Kamala Harris motivates the audience with words of encouragement about the fight for abortion access.



PPSNE Board members and staff pose with Alexis McGill Johnson after. L-R; PPSNE Board Member Kate Busch-Gervais; Board Secretary Connie Malavé Branyan; VP Public Policy, Advocacy, & Organizing Gretchen Raffa; Board Member Paméla Delerme; PPFA President Alexis McGill Johnson; Board Chair John Morton, Vice-Chair Katherine Kraschel; Director of Community Engagement Kerry Ellington



PPSNE Board Chair, John Morton, MD, and President & CEO Amanda Skinner.

Secretary Javier Becerra visited PPSNE's Waterbury Health Center in July to hear from our patients and other key partners about what actions can be taken to ensure patients are getting the care they need and deserve.



Sec. Javier Becerra is welcomed to the Waterbury health center by Amanda Skinner, President & CEO, and Gretchen Raffa, VP Public Policy, Advocacy, & Organizing.



Sec. Javier Becerra speaks to the press about the measures the federal government is taking to protect abortion access in light of the overturning of Roe v. Wade.



Waterbury health center staff, clinicians, and clinical leadership pose in front of the Waterbury Health Center building.



Secretary Becerra shakes hands with PPSNE's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nancy Stanwood.



During the roundtable discussion with Sec. Becerra, remarks were shared by local elected officials. L-R: CT Gov. Ned Lamont, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, State Rep. Jillian Gillchrest, and State Rep. Matt Blumenthal

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like enough. The structural inequities that affect my patients' health, like racism, xenophobia, and discrimination create barriers to healthy lives and cannot be treated in the exam room. I'm fortunate to be a part of PPSNE, where collective action combines health care delivery with education, advocacy, and strategic communications to improve access to equitable reproductive health care—including abortion care.

Our legislative advocacy in Connecticut this year is a great example. It was critical that Connecticut remove the medically unnecessary physician-only requirement for performing aspiration abortion—a common first-trimester procedure. Working with policy and communications colleagues, I provided testimony, did media interviews, and spoke with different medical organizations, sharing established research that demonstrates how advanced practice clinicians are qualified to be trained and then to perform aspiration abortion.

It takes all of us to push back against racism, misogyny, and other systems of oppression that drive the starkly different health outcomes across Connecticut, Rhode Island, and the country. Together, our collective action can drive the culture change needed, spanning from the exam room, to our living rooms, to the newsroom, and ultimately to the courtroom.

Q: It is evident that your work with our advocacy team has a tangible impact on our patients! Can you share more about the aspiration abortion training you're leading for our advanced practice clinicians?

Absolutely! This is an excellent example of policy change in action. Once the [Reproductive Freedom Defense Act] went into effect in July, I drew on my experience teaching doctors in training to tailor a well-established curriculum for our advanced practice clinicians.

We utilize a competency-based training program consisting of both classroom and hands-on training that ultimately allows us to expand our pool of

procedural abortion providers. One educational highlight was the papaya simulation we did early in training. Our providers were able to use a papaya, a fruit structurally similar to a uterus, to simulate an aspiration abortion, which shows how simple this procedure is that we can demonstrate it with a piece of fruit.



Dr. Stanwood guides advanced practice clinicians during the papaya simulation, one part of the aspiration abortion training.

And after two months of training, I am thrilled to report that we just completed training our first cohort! From a policy idea, to draft legislation, to a bill signed into law, and now policy in action, this success story proves what we can do when we work together.

Q: Part of your work is leading strategic efforts to advance health equity, focusing on improving health outcomes and reducing disparities in PPSNE patient communities. How has that been going?

Now without Roe, we know reproductive health disparities will grow. With multiple systems of oppression at play, we are intentionally approaching this work from a "race and" framework—focusing on race explicitly, but not exclusively, recognizing the intersectionality of our lives.

A driver behind health disparities is access to care. In August, we joined the CT Vaccine program through the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide testing and vaccination for hMPXV, or Monkeypox, in three health centers in Connecticut that DPH identified as areas that needed increased access.

When making decisions at all levels of clinical service, health equity is our north star. When we say "Care. No matter what", we truly mean that.

A Legacy for Planned Parenthood

Retirement assets left to or given to PPSNE can support the future of reproductive freedom.



GIVE FOR TODAY

A GIFT TODAY FROM YOUR IRA CAN SAVE YOU TAXES

Many supporters older than 70 ½ take advantage of the current IRA Charitable rollover provision which allows donors to make a contribution directly from their IRA to PPSNE (up to \$100,000) and not have that transfer count towards their taxable income in the same year that they made

the charitable gift. These rollover amounts then count toward your required minimum distribution minimizing your taxes in the year of the distribution. To make a gift from your IRA, please contact the company that administers your plan.



GIVE FOR TOMORROW

A FUTURE GIFT FROM YOUR IRA/RETIREMENT ASSETS

Do you want to leave a legacy to PPSNE? A legacy that will reflect your lifelong commitment to reproductive freedom and the prevention of unintended pregnancy?

Then consider making PPSNE the beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), tax-sheltered annuity or other retirement assets. These assets can be subject to income tax and estate taxes, often leaving significantly less for your heirs. By leaving PPSNE a portion of your retirement assets, you can help

support the future of reproductive freedom. Simply request a change of beneficiary form from your retirement plan and let your lawyer or executor know of your intentions.

When you fill out the form you will need our legal name (**Planned Parenthood of Southern New England**), our taxpayer ID number (**06-0263565**) and our mailing address (**345 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511**).

We encourage you to let us know if you include PPSNE in your life or estate plans or are planning to make a qualified distribution from your IRA. Not only can we express our gratitude, we can also make sure you are kept up to date on all that is happening here at PPSNE. For more information about how you can establish your legacy please contact Christopher Bellis at christopher.bellis@ppsne.org or 203-836-3419.

This information is for general purposes only and is not intended as legal or financial advice. PPSNE recommends that individuals consult with their legal or financial advisors.

New Polling Shows Rhode Island Voters Support the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act

Polling that was exclusively shared with *The Providence Journal* in early September shows that **two-thirds of Rhode Island voters support the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act (EACA)**. This crucial policy change removes the harmful state law that prevents those with state insurance or who are state employees from using their health insurance coverage for abortion care.

After three legislative sessions fighting for the EACA, this year looks different with Gov. McKee including funding for the EACA in his proposed FY24 budget.

KEY FINDINGS:

2/3

of Rhode Island
voters support
the EACA.



After voters hear messages
against the EACA, **they**
continue to support it by
a 34-point margin.

undecided **4%**

**34-point
margin**

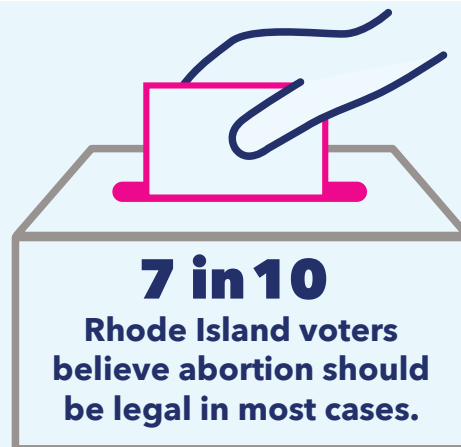
oppose 31%

support 65%

72% agree 



that Rhode Islanders with health
insurance through Medicaid or
the state **should receive the same**
coverage for abortion services as
those with private health insurance.



PPSNE Information

Administration: 203.865.5158
Call 1.800.230.PLAN (7526) to
reach the center nearest you.
ppsne.org

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