My fellow Californians,

My name is Jodi Hicks, and I am the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California (PPAC). This week marks the beginning of Planned Parenthood supporters from across California coming together to take much needed action in support of protecting and expanding access to essential sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, through what we call “Capitol Week.”

As we gather this week, extreme politicians hellbent on controlling other people’s bodies continue to attack access to abortion across the country - more than 500 restrictions have been introduced in 41 states. But these attacks are not the only attacks on bodily autonomy and essential health care. We must acknowledge the attacks happening on transgender communities across the country, as extreme politicians also go after gender-affirming care. And we know they will not stop there. Those same politicians have also expressed glee in going after our access to contraception, interracial marriage, and marriage equality for the LGBTQ+ community. And just last year, during the failed Republican-led recall, some candidates went after comprehensive sex education.
In my capacity as President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, which represents the seven Planned Parenthood affiliates throughout California and their more than 100 health centers in all corners of the state, I wanted to provide you with a detailed look at the current state of abortion rights and access, the broader state of sexual and reproductive health care, *The California Way* forward, and how you can take action today and every day, to be a key part of this fight!

**Who Planned Parenthood Serves**

Over the past year, Planned Parenthood health centers across California saw more than 1.3 million visits, and provided essential care to more than 750,000 people. The vast majority of those patients are below the federal poverty line, people of color, under the age of 30, and on some kind of government provided health care. In more specific numbers, this means:

- About 90% of California Planned Parenthood patients are below 200% of the federal poverty line;
- More than 80% of patients are on a Medicaid program;
- More than 60% of patients are under 30 years old; and
- Nearly 60% of patients are people of color.

The actions being taken by extreme politicians without a doubt disproportionately impacts Black, Brown, Indigenous and other people of color, younger people, people with lower incomes, people experiencing a disability, and people in more rural areas.

Thanks to our past legislative and advocacy work, and with you standing by our side, we have been able to achieve some critical wins that have helped break down barriers to accessing care so people are able to receive the care they want, where they want it, and when they want it.

And while there is still more work to do, our victories, like expanded telehealth, the Abortion Accessibility Act (SB 245), increased security (SB 1356), and privacy protections (AB 1184), are allowing patients to continue to access essential health care where they are, when they need it, and with cost and privacy
concerns no longer significant barriers to that care. But as I said, there is more work to do to ensure California remains a “Reproductive Freedom state” for all who seek care here.

**Current State of Abortion Rights**

Last year was the worst year for abortion rights since before *Roe v Wade* was decided in 1973.

In fact, more than 106 abortion restrictions were introduced across 19 states, including 12 abortion bans. And in the final months of 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed Texas’ six-week abortion ban, “sue-thy-neighbor” (known as Senate Bill 8), to remain in effect. Devastatingly, it remains in effect to this day - meaning Texans essentially no longer live in a state in which *Roe v Wade* protections exist. And just three months after Texas’ S.B. 8 was allowed to remain law, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the court case, known as *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which centers around Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban.

And in 2022, things are worse. Much worse. There have already been more than 500 abortion restrictions introduced in more than 40 states in just the first few months of the year. A nearby state in Idaho recently became the first state to copy Texas’ S.B. 8 abortion ban. And our neighboring Arizona followed Florida and Mississippi in passing a 15-week abortion ban. Even worse, extremists in Missouri introduced legislation that would make it illegal for someone in Missouri to travel out-of-state to receive the care they want or need. And Oklahoma and Kentucky has passed a TOTAL abortion ban.

All of this is happening as we await a final decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on *Dobbs v Jackson Womens Health Organization*. I want to be very clear: given the conservative majority, specifically the three Justices appointed by President Donald Trump precisely for their opposition to *Roe v Wade*, it is not “if” but “when,” the U.S. Supreme Court overturns *Roe v Wade*.

That means by or before July 2022, the protections established under *Roe v Wade*, which has been a constitutional right for nearly 50 years, will no longer be the law across the country.
The California Way Forward

Now, we do not know when this decision will be made, but we do know it will happen before the summer is over. We do not have all the answers right now. And frankly, living in a world in which a constitutional right to control my own body no longer exists is terrifying.

But in California, we have worked hard to make sure those protections will not go away.

The constitutional right to privacy is enshrined in our state’s constitution. And in the early 2000’s, our California legislature passed the Reproductive Privacy Act which further protected the right to access abortion services.

However, that does not mean there is not more progress to be made. And it does not mean we can afford to be complacent.

In fact, many Californians unfortunately still face barriers to this day, whether they be costs, travel, lack of information, or something else. Black, Brown, Indigenous and other people of color, people with lower incomes, people in rural parts of our state, LGBTQ+ communities, and people experiencing disability are disproportionately impacted by these barriers.

That is why Planned Parenthood, along with other reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations created the California Future of Abortion Council (CA FAB Council) in partnership with our state’s top leaders like Governor Gavin Newsom, Lt. Governor Eleni Koulanakis, Attorney General Rob Bonta, Senate President Toni Atkins (a former Director of a Women’s Clinic), and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. The CA FAB Council tasked itself with building off the proclamation Governor Newsom issued in 2019 - declaring California a “Reproductive Freedom state” - and providing concrete steps to actualize what it means to be a “Reproductive Freedom state.” What it means to not just protect access to abortion, but to truly expand it, to truly work towards abortion justice.

In December, after three months of rigorous workgroup meetings involving more than 40 organizations from across California - bringing together academics, health care providers, researchers, legal experts, policymakers, patients, advocates and
activists - the CA FAB Council released a blueprint including 45 recommendations for how best to prepare California to respond to what is happening across the country to dismantle abortion access, including the pending U.S. Supreme Court decision. And those recommendations became 13 bills supported by the California Future of Abortion Council - all working their way through the California legislature right now.

The Need for Action

Let me be clear, these actions must be taken now. We cannot afford to wait until after a decision is made.

Millions of people are already facing challenges to accessing care and it will only get worse, so we must do all we can now to ensure Californians, as well as people forced to seek care here due to their own state’s dangerous and extreme restrictions, are affected as little as possible when accessing abortion services here in California.

If we do not, it will not just be people in other states that suffer increased wait times, increased costs, or worst the inability to access this essential health care at all. Californians will too. Because as we know, the need for abortion services does not disappear just because an extreme politician puts a ban in place.

In fact, California is already seeing an impact from these harmful and downright cruel bans in other states:

• Planned Parenthood health centers across California saw on average 80 out-of-state patients per month in the first four months since Texas’ Senate Bill 8 went into effect in Texas.
• On average, Planned Parenthood health centers saw at least 3 Arizonans per day during that time period.
• On average, Planned Parenthood health centers saw at least 1 Texan per day during that time period.

People from across the country are already looking to California as a “Haven State” to provide them the care they need. It is morally imperative we continue to provide the leadership people are looking for. Millions of people are counting on us from across the country to do so.

That is why I am proud of the work Planned Parenthood, as well as other members of the CA FAB Council, have done to
work with lawmakers from across the state to introduce legislation that builds on these recommendations.

With the legislation introduced, this is where we really need you, your friends, your family, your communities. And not just this week, but throughout the year.

Contact your legislator and let them know you support the Planned Parenthood and the CA FAB Council legislative packages. Let them know you support California being bold in its actions as a “Reproductive Freedom state.” Let them know when other states go backwards, you want California to continue to pave the way forward.

Continue to share your story. Whether that be in small settings or with us here at Planned Parenthood, where you can be a part of our SAY ABORTION campaign.

Continue to say the word ABORTION, as we work to fight the stigma around abortion services and even just saying the word.

And lastly sign up to volunteer. This is perhaps the most consequential year for abortion rights and sexual and reproductive health care more broadly. We cannot do this alone. We need all of your voices. We need you to stand with us in this fight.

We cannot let up and we will not give up. We must meet the moment.

Jodi
Planned Parenthood in California by the numbers

100+ Planned Parenthood Health Centers

1.2M total visits, including 215k Telehealth visits

90% of people California Planned Parenthood serves are 200% below the federal poverty line

80% of people California Planned Parenthood serves are on a medicaid program

65% of people who visit a California Planned Parenthood are under 30 years old

60% of people who visit a California Planned Parenthood are people of color

Other Key Numbers: 1.7M STI Tests, 120K Cancer Screenings, 375K Contraceptive Supply Pickups

*All data presented on this page is from Fiscal Year 2021 and does not include data from every health center in California.
There has been an increase in out-of-state people seeking sexual and reproductive health care since SB 8 went into effect in Texas. Between August and December of 2021, Planned Parenthood health centers across California saw more than 2,000 visits from out-of-state people.

Planned Parenthood health centers across California saw on average 80 out-of-state patients per month in the first four months since Texas’ Senate Bill 8 went into effect in Texas.

**Out-of-state people are 3x more likely to seek abortion related services than Californians.**

- Arizona and Texas were the states where the most out-of-state patients came from.

- On average, Planned Parenthood health centers saw at least 3 Arizonans per day since S.B. 8 went into effect.

- On average, Planned Parenthood health centers saw at least 1 Texan per day since S.B. 8 went into effect.

*All data presented on this page is from August 2021 to December of 2021 and does not include data from every health center in California.*
PPAC’s sponsored legislative package for the 2022 California Legislative Session builds on the success of the prior year, in which Governor Newsom signed multiple bills into law protecting and expanding access to abortion, and more broadly access and affordability of sexual and reproductive health care for all in California. It is imperative California policymakers take swift and significant action throughout the 2022 legislative session to protect and expand access to abortion services, and sexual and reproductive health care more broadly.

**2022 Legislative Priorities**

**AB 1666**
(Bauer-Kahan):
Protects patients and providers in California from civil liability judgments for providing reproductive health care to patients when the claims are based on laws in other states that are hostile to abortion rights and are contrary to the public policy of California.

**AB 2091**
(Bonta):
Enhances privacy protections for medical records related to abortion care against disclosures to law enforcement and out-of-state third parties seeking to enforce hostile abortion bans in other states.

**AB 2134**
(Weber):
Establishes the “California Reproductive Health Equity Program” which will provide grants to providers who provide uncompensated care to patients with low-incomes and those who face other financial barriers to accessing abortion and contraception.
California must continue to take bold action to increase protections and preserve timely access to abortion services for Californians, and for those who will seek care here from out-of-state because it’s the right thing to do. California must expand equitable access to health care so that reproductive freedom and health equity is a reality for every person.
The "Say Abortion" campaign Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California is running throughout 2022 focuses on patient storytelling, the importance of storytelling in the fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice, and works to fight the stigma currently surrounding abortion services and even the word "abortion."

The "Say Abortion" campaign encourages people to share their story (abortion or abortion adjacent – including stories from abortion providers, doulas, clinic escorts, abortion navigators, and more), a tactic that has been central to the reproductive health, rights, and justice movements for decades.

Participating in the "Say Abortion" campaign can take many forms:

- Using the word "abortion" when talking about abortion-related services
- Sharing your abortion story within your community
- Sharing your abortion story with Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California to be used with your consent on social platforms and during advocacy efforts
- Signing up for Planned Parenthood’s supporter email list to stay educated and get involved in local and statewide advocacy opportunities
- Donating to your local Planned Parenthood health center to help increase access and decrease barriers people seeking abortion services in California may face (cost of care, travel cost, lodging cost, child care, etc).

To share your story and learn more about the "Say Abortion" campaign and how best to get involved, visit: SayAbortionCalifornia.com