

We are pleased to announce the resumed leadership of Nicole Clegg, Interim CEO, former Sr VP of Public Affairs, who served as a key member of our Interim Leadership Team for nearly two years. We are grateful for her steady presence, deep experience, nearly decade-long tenure, and continued leadership as we move forward.

Dear Friends,

I hope this edition of *NewsSource* finds you all enjoying the longer days and the emerging leaves and flowers as we fully head into Spring here in northern New England.

It has been a busy few months, especially since a Texas judge issued an unprecedented ruling last month threatening access to the medical abortion drug, Mifepristone. After weeks of uncertainty, the Supreme Court stepped in and issued a stay in the case, protecting access – for now. This is good news, but let's be clear: access to mifepristone should never have been in jeopardy in the first place and our fight is not yet over. This case underscores what we already knew – extreme politicians and judges will stop at nothing to block access to abortion, here in northern New England and across the country.

We know that private medical decisions should be made by patients and their providers, not politicians and judges. PPNNE will never stop fighting to ensure every person has access to the reproductive health care they need – no matter what.

As you'll see inside, we've been busy in Augusta, Concord, and Montpelier, fighting back against harmful bills, pushing proactive legislation, and working to protect access to care. And you'll see personal patient stories about our life-saving, life-changing, and award-winning care. All this work is possible because of you.

As we come up on the anniversary of the devasting Supreme Court Dobbs decision which overturned Roe last June, 1 in 3 people now live in a state that has lost abortion access. We are fortunate here in northern New England, and I want to say thank you for all you do to support this work, with your donations, with your activism, for showing up at rallies and marches, and for sharing your stories.

Never doubt the impact your support makes in our region and for all those who rely on us. Together, we will keep access to reproductive care in northern New England safe and legal, now and for years to come.

With Gratitude.

Meast Coff

Nicole Clegg Interim CEO



Human Experience Award winner

For the second year in a row, PPNNE was recognized for the exceptional patient care our dedicated staff provides, when we were named a Press Ganey 2022 Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award® winner!

Press Ganey works with 41,000 providers across the country, and uses survey data to rank the top hospitals and health systems. They provide this prestigious award to health care providers who were ranked in the top 5% for delivering high quality patient experience in the last year.

This award demonstrates that in the face of so much adversity, our staff continue to provide the highest quality reproductive and sexual health care to our patients – **no matter what.**





Serving Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont



We know people opposed to abortion will not stop until they have banned abortion nationwide, and we will continue our work across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont to safeguard abortion and related sexual and reproductive care here in northern New England, no matter what.



VERMONT

Two "shield bills," H.89, an act relating to civil and criminal procedures concerning legally protected health care activity, and S.37, an act relating to access to legally protected health care activity and regulation of health care providers, **passed the Vermont Legislature** this session and Governor Phil Scott **signed them into law** on May 10th.

In the meantime, the Vermont Department of Health, working with the Governor's office, has purchased a two-year supply of mifepristone, the "abortion pill" for Vermonters.

We continue to work with elected leaders and social justice partners on a number of bills in VT, including a **Paid Family and Medical Leave and the Universal Child Care bill** which are progressing.

So even though we have great laws [in Maine], even though we've done a lot to protect access to abortion, our opposition is finding every possible avenue to take away those rights and our ability to make those decisions.

We cannot be complacent.

- Nicole Clegg, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England Interim CEO, on Maine Beacon podcast

MAINE

In Maine, we have an opportunity to strengthen and expand protections for patients and providers, as well as to address affordability barriers to care.

The most prominent bill, LD 1619, would remove Maine's ban on abortion later in pregnancy, remove criminal penalties regarding abortion care later in pregnancy and for support people who

LD 1343: Ensure no ME town can enact a local ordinance in conflict with Maine's Reproductive Privacy Act LD616: Strengthens protections for providers who offer care to those traveling to Maine from out of state

LD263: Would protect reproductive health care in the event of health care mergers or acquisitions

LD935: Removes barriers to abortion coverage in private insurance help someone self-manage abortion, as well as modernize the state's antiquated abortion care data collection law.

There are several other bills that aim to support patient access to care and to protect providers who offer that care: LD1343, LD616, LD263, and LD935.

NEVER STOP FIGHTING

NEW HAMPSHIRE

As all of us continue to grapple with the loss of Roe v. Wade, New Hampshire entered 2023 with 5 anti-reproductive health care bills in the State House, including a near total abortion ban.

Fortunately, all of those bills were defeated in the House of Representatives thanks to an outpouring of bipartisan opposition from Granite Staters.

Our incredible allies also helped us to **pass two proactive abortion rights bills** in the NH House – one to add the right to abortion before 24-weeks in to state law (HB 88), and one to end the criminalization of NH medical providers in the current state abortion restriction (HB 224). While the majority of Granite Staters want their elected officials to take action to protect abortion rights, and these bills passed the House and received Gov. Sununu's vocal support, the Senate still defeated HB 88 and HB 224 on party line votes.

Meanwhile, we continue to monitor the NH Family Planning Program in the state budget. While the funding is currently leveled, we know reproductive health care providers still face a hostile majority on the Executive Council who voted four times during the last two years to defund New Hampshire's trusted family planning providers. Due to the actions of the New Hampshire Executive Council, PPNNE has not received any state funding towards family planning services (such as birth control and cancer screenings)



Honoring a Champion

Today we remember the many contributions to sexual and reproductive health care made by Janet Warren – longtime, dear PPNNE friend, supporter, volunteer, passionate advocate, and PP Vermont Action Fund (PPVTAF) Board Member.

Janet passed on January 16, 2023, following a brave battle with prolonged illness, leaving behind her loving and dedicated husband and life partner Paul Warren – and all of us.

Janet was a Retired Licensed Psychologist in CA and former Alumni Director at Boston University, and brought those skills to bear with her volunteer work since she joined our efforts in 2011. She helped inspire us to build a more robust volunteer program, and hosted and helped plan a significant number of events over the years. She was also a key volunteer during our 50th Anniversary Campaign, and was recognized for her leadership with the PPVTAF Choice Champion Award in 2017. Whether hosting a fundraiser, advocating for progressive policy, making connections, or her many other generous contributions - Janet was a force for good.

> Her star burned bright and we were all the beneficiaries of her light. Janet's spirit will live on in the lives bettered of the many patients and community members her efforts impacted.

Our patients depend on us,

Your support of PPNNE helps us provide vital, life-saving services to our patients and communities. A recent story from Jennifer, a PPNNE patient, is a testament to the care you make possible.

"Planned Parenthood caught my cervical cancer just in time before it fully spread. Although getting my cancer diagnosis was scary, Planned Parenthood made me feel safe, well cared for, fully seen and heard, and respected.

Not only did they get me referral care quickly for my hysterectomy, but their staff also provided me with counseling – everything from my mental health and how I felt about my surgery to the practicalities of helping me find childcare, transportation, and food as I recovered.

This is what amazing, inclusive, TOTAL reproductive health care looks like!"



Care, no matter what, is not just our motto, it's also our mission.
As a supporter of PPNNE, you know the importance of what we do every day.

Your gifts have made it possible for us to continue our work even during the most challenging times.

Providing health care in the US is already a challenge, but when you add in the relentless attacks aimed at Planned Parenthood, it is just that much harder. In the face of so much adversity, our staff stands strong and delivers for all those who rely on us across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. They provide the best care possible to every person that comes through our doors, no matter what – thanks to your support.

Just as Jennifer thinks she could not have survived her illness without us, we know we could not keep our doors open without you.

Thank you for continuing to support the powerful work we do. As Jennifer said in her letter: "This is what amazing, inclusive, total reproductive health care looks like!" – and it's what your support helps make possible.

Please take this moment to stand with PPNNE by making a gift today. You can send your gift in the enclosed envelope or make it online at www.ppnne.org/donate.



If you have any questions about other ways to support PPNNE, including gifts of stock, a gift through your Donor Advised Fund, a special donation from your IRA (if you're over the age of 70 ½), or leaving PPNNE in your will or estate plans, please contact Jennifer Long, Vice President of Development, at jennifer.long@ppnne.org, or call our Fundraising Team at 1-800-287-8188 ext. 9704.

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