



LETTER FROM THE CEO
Abortion rights, Prop. 1 on the CA ballot

Hello Friends,

Many of you may have seen the alarming news in September that Arizona recently passed an abortion ban that's based on a Civil War-era law, which has no exceptions for victims of rape and incest and may imprison abortion providers for up to five years. Though the Arizona Court of Appeals just halted enforcement of this law, after it was challenged in court by Planned Parenthood of Arizona, it remains unclear whether it will eventually be able to go into effect.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June that overturned abortion rights, Arizona had already enacted a 15-week abortion ban. This has led to an uptick of Arizonans crossing state lines into California to receive abortion care at Planned Parenthood health centers. The Guttmacher Institute, a national reproductive-rights research organization, estimated earlier this year that people coming from out of state to receive abortion care in California could now increase as much as 3,000 percent – mostly because of patients traveling from Arizona.

This is the post-Roe scenario that Planned Parenthood Mar Monte has been preparing for over several years as we have trained more clinicians to provide abortion care in California and Nevada, established health centers near mass transportation hubs, and participated in Gov. Gavin Newsom's California Future of Abortion Council, which sponsored a robust package of bills that strengthen abortion rights in the state. The Governor recently signed these bills into law. (See more about the Cal FAB Council bills in "The Big Picture" section of the Full Mar Monte.)

I also thought this would be a good opportunity to review for those who are new to the PPMM family how our affiliate, like all Planned Parenthoods, operates on the "three-legged stool" principle, with our patients and communities at the center.

The first leg is health care – our health centers and the departments that support the work of our health care staff, such as the Response Center, Finance, legal, HR, IT, Facilities and Safety and Security. The second is Public Affairs, including Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte, whose work supports our health care services and protects our patients and communities across California and Nevada by sponsoring public policy and electing champions. The third is PPMM Education, which informs students and families across our service area, using comprehensive, medically accurate information.

It has been an especially challenging time since this spring, when a U.S. Supreme Court draft decision was leaked weeks in advance of the decision that overturned abortion rights. We knew then that basic human rights, which had been protected, were now at risk – not only abortion, but also contraception, marriage equality, and interracial marriage.

So, I'd like to say a few things about Proposition 1 on the California ballot in the upcoming midterm election.

This November, Californians have the chance to send a message to the rest of the world with Proposition 1, a big first step in protecting reproductive health in California.

- A "yes" vote on Prop. 1 will add the right to abortion directly into the California State Constitution so that people can continue to have the power to control their own bodies and personal decisions.
- Prop. 1 would ensure that abortion and the right to use or refuse contraception is protected from attack by a later California Supreme Court or legislature. It would also ensure that abortion is protected from attack by a future California Supreme Court or legislature that may not align with the state's current strong support of safe, legal abortion.
- If a future legislature tried to ban abortion, it would take a constitutional amendment requiring a two-thirds vote to place it on the ballot and would then require the support of voters.
- Without Prop. 1, a future legislature could simply amend state statutes with a simple majority vote. Prop. 1 would also subject laws regulating abortion to the most stringent level of constitutional review, ensuring that abortion is not singled out for burdensome, unjustified restrictions that are not imposed on similar medical procedures.

Other volunteer work with PPMM

If you are interested in volunteering, you can visit the Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte [volunteer page](#) and sign up for information about upcoming volunteer opportunities in Reno and throughout the affiliate.

In closing, I'd like to share a memory about an old friend of mine, Art Noonan, who passed away suddenly in September. Art was a state legislator in Montana and used to wear a button that said, simply, "Give a damn." Here's something else he said and that he lived by: "Be better than where you came from, be better than those who oppose you, and be better than you believe is possible."

I want to thank you again for all the support you give to our patients and communities. It inspires me every day.

In Solidarity,

Planned Parenthood
Mar Monte

TOGETHER

WE RISE. WE RESIST. WE CARE.

2023 EVENT SERIES

After almost three years, we are very excited to return to in-person events with PPMM's new hybrid event series, *Together We Rise. We Fight. We Care.* The series will kick off in January with five new roadshow events across the affiliate, in addition to the very popular Peninsula Breakfast in March and an affiliate-wide virtual event in May.

The new roadshows will be held in Monterey, Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, and Stockton. We are hosting them in local theaters to create community-focused events that feature digital storytelling, PPMM staff, and local leaders.

Last year, our virtual event series showcased PPMM's work through a diverse array of voices including our health center staff in Nevada, legal scholars, spoken word artists, and elected champions at the local, state, and federal levels. Exceeding all previous fundraising totals, the events raised over \$1.8 million in support of PPMM's efforts to provide health care for everyone who walks through our doors, regardless of their ZIP code. (To see highlights from the 2022 virtual event series, [check out our sizzle reel.](#))

While we are working to surpass last year's amazing fundraising total, we also are designing our series to grow our supporter base and celebrate the local communities we serve. We hope you will join us by attending one or more of our events and/or volunteering to join our Event Committee.

Details will be announced soon, so please be on the lookout for our emails. See you, in-person, in 2023!

We're recruiting committee members from throughout PPMM's service area to help us promote *Together We Rise. We Fight. We Care.* There's no previous fundraising experience needed – but it's definitely appreciated! If you are a supporter of reproductive rights, we are looking for you! For more information, please contact our Events Manager Mai Nguyen at Mai_nguyen@ppmarmonte.org.

Being Memorable

In this space, we spotlight health center staff members who have been mentioned by name in patient surveys for delivering a fantastic patient experience.

Putting herself in patients' shoes
HSS Sandra C, in Visalia

Here's what a recent patient at the Visalia health center had to say about HSS **Sandra C.**:

Both appointments so far have been genuinely really great, and exactly what I've needed. Sandra at the Visalia clinic especially has made the experience way less stressful than it could be. Have to say it again, Sandra has been the nurse I've had both times and both times she's been nothing but friendly to me. Uses my correct name and pronouns and everything.



Visalia HSS **Sandra C.**

Many of the patients who come to our Visalia health center are young people who may be having their first-ever reproductive health care visit. HSS **Sandra C.** always keeps this in mind she talks with them at the beginning of their appointment.

She also makes sure to look at their chart in advance so that she can address them by their correct pronouns and know what kind of care they've come in for.

"A lot of people are nervous, and maybe they think they're going to be judged," Sandra said. "The type of questions we ask are private and personal, so it's very important that they feel safe. I always ask how their day is going and say, right away, 'We're here to help you.' I tell them if they feel uncomfortable at any time, they should let me know."

Sandra is especially proud to be a member of the small but mighty staff in Visalia, where the PPMM health center is an oasis for reproductive health care in the region. "When I see young people coming in, right away I put myself in their shoes. I was a young mom when I was a senior in high school, and I so wished I'd had someone to talk to me and really educate me about my options when I was that age," she said. "I want to be sure that they're able to walk out of here with the right birth control for them, if that's what they want."

Sandra said that she and the Visalia health center staff have become accustomed to patients thanking them profusely for being there.

"We see patients from Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties," she said. "We have seen girls who came to us at 14 for birth control, and now they're in their twenties, and still coming to us for their reproductive care. They've been with us all that time because they know they can trust us to take care of them."

HC 3 In this spot each answering, we feature a PPMM health center with staff answering three questions.

Thriving on open communication in Salinas

What are you most proud of about the way your health center has responded, to patients and each other, during the pandemic?

We're proud of our ability to change and adapt to every new development or challenge with speed and grace. One of the biggest challenges was how (COVID) directly affected our staff's health at the peak of the pandemic while we continued to offer the best service we could provide to our patients.

How would you describe the culture at your health center?

Teamwork is a huge part of the culture at Salinas, but that doesn't happen without communication and transparency. We want to develop a workplace where everyone feels safe, heard, and supported in any way possible – where no one is afraid to speak up and everyone feels entirely respected. We hold each other to a certain standard and encourage ourselves to continue to grow, whether you've been with us for 20 years or three months.

How does your health center staff best reflect the values of PPMM?

It's reflected by being eager to expand our learning, not being afraid to ask questions, welcoming feedback, and being compassionate towards our patients. Patient care is a priority, and we make sure we only bring our best to our health center every day.



Salinas health center staff

Love Notes Appreciation for PPMM staff, from donors and supporters

"I am a health care provider in Oakhurst, California and I just want to say that the Fresno Planned Parenthood has taken very good care of my patients. I am happy to have a place to send women and know that they will feel safe and not judged. Thank you for all that you do for them."

– **Supporter, Madera County**

"It was my first time at a Planned Parenthood, as I'm new to Fresno and had a sexual health concern. I called and made an appointment with a very kind operator who made an appointment for the very next day, to my relieved surprise. I arrived an hour early, probably because I was nervous."

I was called in by a young guy, and we got to the awkward questions regarding sexual history. He made the conversation comfortable and natural for me, speaking with another man about (being) gay and some questionable choices I've made. My nerves went away.

The concern for my health as I shared a past diagnosis really made the feeling of genuine care, and we agreed to further testing. I would absolutely love to give recognition to that health care worker and to Planned Parenthood for your great work."

– **Patient, Fresno**

The Big Picture

Big success with CA abortion-access legislation – and getting out the vote for the midterms

Our Public Affairs team has been hard at work with GOTV – get out the vote – in advance of November's midterm elections, including virtual outreach, organizing, and voter-registration efforts.



To learn more about Prop. 1 on the California ballot, check out the Letter from CEO at the top of the Full Mar Monte.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can visit the Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte [volunteer page](#) and sign up for information about upcoming volunteer opportunities in Reno and throughout the affiliate.

The Public Affairs team also has plenty of sponsored by the recent passage of a package of bills sponsored by the [California Future of Abortion Council](#) (CA FAB Council) formed in late 2021 by Gov. Gavin Newsom. The council's members include PPMM's VP of Public Affairs **Lauren Babb** and Associate Medical Dir. **Dr. Jessica Hamilton**.

Here's a brief rundown of the CA FAB bills signed, so far, by Gov. Newsom:

- **SCA 10** (*Atkins & Rendon*): Amends the state constitution to explicitly protect access to abortion and contraception.
- **SB 245** (*Gonzalez*): Remove cost-sharing for abortion services, eliminating co-pays and co-insurance in commercial insurance for abortion.
- **SB 1142** (*Skinner & Caballero*): Creates an "Abortion Information Webpage" with comprehensive information regarding accessing abortion services in California, to provide patients one point of entry to connect with the nearest and most accessible abortion provider, obtain information about coverage or financial support for care, and logistical assistance and resources for travel, lodging, or other needs.
- **SB 1245** (*Kamlager*): Establishes the Los Angeles County Reproductive Safe Haven Pilot Project to support innovative approaches and patient-centered collaborations to safeguard patient access to abortions, regardless of residency.
- **AB 32** (*Aguiar-Curry*): Improves patient access to health care by establishing telehealth flexibilities, including allowing some new patients to be established via synchronous telehealth modalities, improving patient access to care, and making telehealth flexibilities from the public health emergency permanent.
- **AB 1666** (*Bauer-Kahan*): Protects reproductive health care 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.
- **AB 2205** (*Carrillo*): Requires the qualified health plans under Covered California to report annually to the Department of Insurance and Department of Managed Health Care the total amounts of funds collected in the segregated accounts (established under the ACA to hold premium payment of \$1 per member per month and from which claims for abortions must be paid) to determine the funds currently in those accounts and how much is being used each year to pay claims.
- **AB 2223** (*Wicks*): Ensures that no one in California will be investigated, prosecuted, or incarcerated for ending a pregnancy or experiencing pregnancy loss.

This is a triumph for all Californians as well as for abortion rights and access!

Good Reads

Oct. 7, Washington Post
[Republicans have a lot to fear in November](#)

Oct. 10, New York Times
[Why little noticed legislative races could be hugely consequential](#)

Oct. 17, New Yorker
[The post-Roe abortion underground](#)

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