



FEBRUARY 2023 CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas monthly newsletter. As a member of our community, we would like to share the latest updates on the work at Planned Parenthood. We have also included important action alerts and upcoming events.

SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION UPDATE

As part of our mission to provide high-quality sex education to young people, we are excited to share education program updates.

This spring, our education workshops expanded to offer INcluded, an LGBTQ-centered, evidence-based program that addresses the health disparities affecting LGBTQ youth in the U.S. Thanks to our community, including you, for investing in the training and resources to ensure that our community health educators are equipped to deliver comprehensive education curriculum and up-to-date health information in our communities.

We are thrilled to share these updates with you. Think of how our communities benefit when young people have the opportunity to be fully educated and informed.

Pictured: Community health educator facilitating a lesson



A NEWS CONNECTION

Federal judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, a Trump appointee, hostile to sexual and reproductive rights, recently undermined a long-standing federal commitment to teen confidentiality by ruling teens in Texas are required to obtain parental permission for birth control at Title X-funded family planning health centers. Even a teen who is already a parent and who can consent to their child's healthcare, must obtain consent from their parent. For some vulnerable teens, this places birth control out of reach.

The federal Title X program has ensured confidentiality to teens unable to receive parental consent to access birth control for decades. This ruling goes against public health precedent and is part of an ongoing, coordinated effort to undermine sexual and reproductive healthcare policies through the judicial system.

What this means for patients in Texas: Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas' patients in four health centers supported with Title X funding (El Paso, Lubbock, Paris, and Waco) are now implementing parental consent requirements already required in all of our affiliates' other health centers.

"[The ruling is a] devastating barrier for vulnerable teens seeking to prevent an unintended pregnancy. Texans need access to birth control not roadblocks." -Autumn Keiser, spokesperson for Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas.



**Title X helps prevent
almost 1 million
unintended pregnancies
each year through birth
control services.**

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2023 Texas Legislative Session has started. Planned Parenthood is supporting legislation to expand access to healthcare and restore abortion rights and vigorously opposing bills that further restrict access to abortion, birth control, reproductive healthcare and sex education, stigmatize LGBTQ youth, and fail to address Texas' maternal mortality crisis.

We encourage you to join us and attend the statewide Planned Parenthood Lobby Day on Friday, April 14. Help us to turn the Capitol pink on behalf of all Texans in need of our services! Details to come.

**GET INVOLVED,
TAKE ACTION**
WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER TEXAS

February is Birth Control Awareness Month

54% of pregnancies in Texas are unintended. But thanks to community support, 100% of birth control methods are available at Planned Parenthood, including: IUDs, implants, injections, patch, ring, pills and condoms.

- **77,802** – Between January and October 2022, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas recorded 77,802 family planning visits.
- **23,562** – The total number of birth control pills prescribed between January and October 2022, thereby empowering patients to take control of their reproductive health.
- **99%** – Long-acting, reversible methods of birth control like the IUD and implant offer 4-12 years of continuous coverage that are 99% effective at preventing pregnancy.

Our most common services provided are:



Birth control to help patients plan and space their pregnancies.



Testing and treatment for STIs, HIV tests, and HIV prevention medication.



Lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings.

SOUTH AUSTIN HEALTH CENTER NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

To increase access to healthcare appointments for patients juggling work, school, and/or childcare, Planned Parenthood's South Austin health center expanded to include weekend hours. Because of community support, the South Austin health center is now open 7 days a week to improve access to healthcare appointments.

The Greater Texas community just got stronger!

Pictured: South Austin health center team members



WAYS TO GIVE

Let us continue supporting high-quality healthcare services and sex education programs for generations to come. Contact Shawn Wills, Chief Development Officer, at (214) 363-3505 or shawn.wills@ppgt.org to learn how a legacy gift to Planned Parenthood can ensure commitment to high-quality care for all continues.

Our community benefits from:

- Unintended pregnancy prevention options, like condoms, birth control, emergency contraception, IUDs, and implants
- Honest, inclusive sex education
- Access to wellness exams that include opportunities for open conversations about a patient's sexual health

If you have a question, want to learn more, or want to get involved, please get in touch with the Development Office at (214) 254-3017 or development@ppgt.org.

