

2021

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood
Affiliates, Inc.

OVERVIEW



The Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates is the nonpartisan advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood health centers in Florida. In partnership with more than 870,000 activists, supporters and donors in the state, the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates advocates for access to our 20 health centers where patients receive nonjudgmental, compassionate, affordable and quality care. With nearly 78% of Planned Parenthood health centers in medically underserved areas, Planned Parenthood continues to be a trusted provider for communities in need.

It's been 48 years since the landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which made clear that the United States Constitution protects every person's right to make their own personal medical decisions, including whether or not to have an abortion. Yet politicians in Florida have shown that they will stop at nothing to end access not only to abortion but to the full spectrum of reproductive health care.

Since 2019 we have seen renewed attacks on reproductive health care in the Florida Legislature as well as the appointment of three new state Supreme Court justices by Governor Ron DeSantis who could decide the future of reproductive rights in Florida. Political observers

anticipated that lawmakers would be emboldened to introduce legislation that would trigger a ruling from the newly appointed Supreme Court justices on Floridians' constitutional right to privacy which includes protecting the right to have an abortion. Since then lawmakers have repeatedly introduced anti-reproductive health bills with the intention of rolling back abortion rights and having those rollbacks affirmed by our new state Supreme Court.

Just last year the Legislature passed a forced parental consent bill that restricts access to abortion care for young people. Under this law, young people who are unable to obtain consent from a parent or legal guardian have had to navigate the complicated legal system on their own, in the middle of a global pandemic, in order to go in front of a judge and obtain a "judicial bypass" that would determine if they are "mature enough" to get an abortion.

This year we saw the re-introduction of a "reason ban" (HB 1221/SB 1664). This legislation would have banned some early abortions based on the results of prenatal genetic testing. This bill is about restricting abortion, not protecting those with disabilities. This is not a policy that is being promoted by national or local disability rights groups. This is another attempt to insert politics where it does not belong — into the most sensitive situations between a patient and their doctor.

This session we also saw the re-introduction of

SESSION BY THE NUMBERS



100 volunteers participated in Lobby Days

25 volunteers testified in committees

22 visits with legislators

7,080 new supporters

5,722 emails and petitions to legislators

557 calls to legislators

a 20-week ban (HB 351/ SB 744) which failed to gain any traction. Twenty-week abortion bans are cruel attempts to impose restrictions on access to abortion. This legislation is rooted in opposition to safe and legal abortion and not credible medical evidence. Lastly, a TRAP (Targeted Regulations on Abortion Providers) bill (HB 1437/ SB 1984) was introduced as part of a coordinated, nationwide effort to make abortion access more difficult for patients, to harass physicians, and to outlaw abortion. This bill singles out abortion clinics, and, in doing so, stigmatizes providers at these clinics and the patients that rely on them for necessary reproductive health care.

Instead of focusing on these intrusive laws that threaten patients' access to health care and shame them for their personal decisions, our elected officials should focus their attention—especially right now, during a global pandemic, on promoting laws that strengthen the health of our communities, and that support women and their families.

While we knew this legislative session was going to be hostile for reproductive rights and unprecedented because of COVID-19, that did not stop us from fighting against multiple

attempts to restrict access to safe and legal abortion. Planned Parenthood will always fight to ensure that access to reproductive health care is defended – and the 2021 legislative session was no different.

We deeply believe in the rights of all people — no matter who they are, where they live, or what they earn — to make their own personal decisions about their bodies, their families, and their life's path, without political interference.

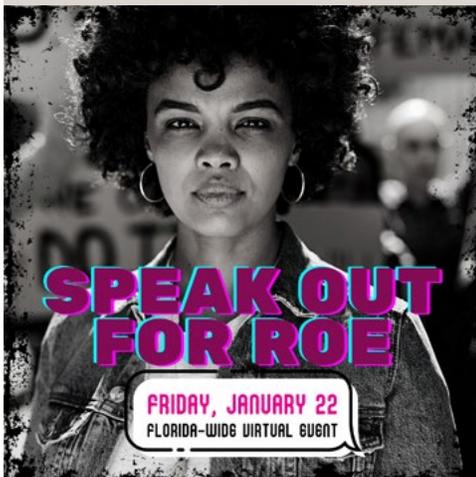
This year, with the support of coalition partners and through grassroots efforts, the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates successfully defeated all four bills that attempted to restrict access to reproductive health care!

This report provides an overview of the bills that the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates worked on during the 2021 Legislative Session in conjunction with our allies and supporters.

SOCIAL MEDIA: ONLINE ACTIVISM



20,638 ONLINE ACTIONS



ANTI-REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LEGISLATION



SB 1664 / HB 1221

REASON BAN

by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez and Rep. Erin Grall

Cosponsors: Reps. Andrade, Barnaby, Beltran, Byrd, Fischer, Gregory, Harding, Maggard, Robinson (W), Roth, Sabitini, Sirois, Snyder, Yarborough.

This legislation would have banned some early abortions in the state based on the results of prenatal genetic testing. When a pregnant person is faced with a prenatal diagnosis, education can help many people make better-informed decisions for their families. Bills like this, however, are not about educating pregnant people; they are about imposing a decision that may be right for one family on all families. Prominent medical professionals and professional associations have routinely opposed this type of legislation as improperly interfering with the patient-physician relationship and dictating what information a practitioner discusses with a patient, even when it goes against the best interest of the patient.

Instead of playing a divisive political game with the personal decisions of Florida families, our lawmakers should work to ensure the people of Florida have access to the services they need and appropriate accommodations when they need them.

STATUS: The legislation passed in the House. [To see how your elected official voted, click here.](#) It did not receive any legislative action in the Senate.

SB 744 / HB 351

20-WEEK BAN

by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez and Rep. Tommy Gregory

Cosponsors: Reps. Barnaby, Bell, Beltran, Borrero, DiCeglie, Garrison, Giallombardo, Hage, Harding, Maggard, McClain, Roach, Sabatini, Smith (David), Snyder, Sen. Baxley, Rodrigues (Ray)

This legislation would ban abortion at 20 weeks, ignoring real-life situations where it is crucial for a pregnant person to have the autonomy to determine the best outcome in their individual case. Once again, politicians were attempting to insert themselves in the most private and personal medical decisions best left to a pregnant person, in consultation with their doctor, their family and their faith.

STATUS: Did not see legislative action.



Volunteers and staff at the state capitol to testify against HB 545.

SB 1984 / HB 1437

TARGETED REGULATION OF ABORTION PROVIDERS (TRAP) BILL

by Sen. Dennis Baxley and Rep. Webster Barnaby

Abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, work with patients on a case-by-case basis to answer any questions they may have about the disposal of embryonic or fetal tissue. This bill, however, would force ALL patients seeking an abortion to determine how fetal tissue is disposed of before they can have an abortion. These bills do nothing to respect or support a pregnant person's decision; instead, they mandate what a patient must do after having an abortion, regardless of their own wishes. Instead of focusing on these intrusive mandates, lawmakers need to focus on policies that improve reproductive health.

STATUS: Did not see legislative action.

SB 410/ HB 545

ANTI-SEX EDUCATION BILL

by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez and Rep. Linda Chaney

Cosponsors: Reps. Borrero, Maggard, Maney, Roth, Shoaf, Snyder, Toledo, Yarborough

This bill would have created additional barriers to giving young people the access to education they need and would likely have led to fewer young people in Florida receiving the sex education they need at a critical point in their lives. As a result, more young people could engage in sexual activity without being taught about safety, consequences, relationships, and their own bodies.

The heavily amended version removed this objectionable "opt-in" language as well as language that would have classified instructional materials as pornography. Instead the new legislation requires sexual health education curriculum to be accessible from a school district's home page on its website. It also requires that school districts hold public meetings annually to discuss the curriculum.

STATUS: The Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates is neutral on the amended version that ultimately passed in both chambers.



FSU Generation Action at a Food Not Bombs food share in Tallahassee.

PRO-REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LEGISLATION



SB 238 /HB 645

POSTPARTUM MEDICAID COVERAGE

by Sen. Lauren Book and Rep. Kamia Brown

Cosponsors: Duran, Woodson

This legislation would have extended Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months for postpartum women. In expanding this coverage, more postpartum women will have access to the critical post-partum health care support they need. If passed, this bill will be a step forward in addressing the maternal mortality crises in our state which disproportionately impacts Black women. While SB 238 /HB 645 did not pass, postpartum Medicaid coverage was expanded and funded up to 12 months in the final House and Senate budgets. This will help over 100,000 pregnant and birthing people.

STATUS: Did not pass but a similar measure was secured in the state budget to fully fund this \$240 million initiative from the \$10.2 billion in funding that Florida accepted from President Joe Biden's American Rescue plan passed by Congress.

SB 1534

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM

by Senator Lauren Book

This bill would have required any licensed facility treating a survivor of sexual assault to provide the survivor with medically accurate and comprehensive information regarding emergency contraception. Providing information about emergency contraception to sexual assault survivors in the hospital following an assault is critical. It saves survivors burdensome additional trips to providers and pharmacies during a traumatic time.

STATUS: Did not see legislative action.

HB 6039

SB 242 / HB 75

REPEAL OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL LANGUAGE

LEARNING WITH DIGNITY

by Representative Anna Eskamani

by Senator Lauren Book and Representative Michael Grieco

This legislation would have repealed unconstitutional language from 2016 TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) legislation that attempted to defund family planning providers who provide safe and legal abortion care from offering preventive care such as birth control, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment and other essential health care services. It would also have repealed unconstitutional language that would have jeopardized the privacy of women who have an abortion by requiring that at least 50 percent of those patient records be reviewed by state officials; a mandate not required in any other medical procedure

Co-sponsors: Senators Berman, Cruz, Farmer, Jones, Pizzo. Reps. Arrington, Bartleman, Benjamin, Eskamani, Geller, Gottlieb, Hunschofsky, Jenne, Rayner, Tant, Willhite, Williams, Woodson

This bill would have required school districts to make menstrual products available, at no charge, in female restroom facilities of public school buildings. Ensuring every school has menstrual supplies accessible to female students would promote healthy hygiene, improve school attendance, provide dignity within schools and ultimately empower students.

STATUS: Did not see legislative action.

STATUS: Did not see legislative action.



Volunteers testifying against HB 545, the Ant-Sex Education bill in the House Education and Employment Committee.

OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

SB 2012 / HB 1475

TRANS YOUTH SPORTS BAN

by Sen. Kelli Stargel and Rep. Kaylee Tuck and SB 1028 by Sen. Travis Hutson

Cosponsors: Reps. Altman, Andrade, Borrero, Botana, Byrd, Fine, Fischer, Giallombardo, Gregory, Harding, Melo, Persons-Mulicka, Roach, Sabatini, Yarborough and Sen. Diaz

This legislation will ban trans girls from participating in team sports that align with their gender identity. This legislation is an attack on trans youth that targets their right to have the same opportunities to succeed in life. While SB 2012 / HB 1475 did not pass, the House filed an amendment at the 11th hour to an unrelated charter school bill (SB 1028) that contained the original intent of the bill to discriminate against trans girls and women from participating in school sports. The amendment was approved and immediately sent to the Senate for a full chamber vote where it also passed.

STATUS: SB 2012 / HB 1475 did not pass but its intent was revived through an amendment on SB 1028 which passed both chambers. To see how your representative voted in the House, [click here](#). To see how your senator voted in the Senate, [click here](#).

**For additional information,
please visit www.fappa.org**

SB 582 / HB 241

PARENTAL BILL OF WRONGS

by Sen. Ray Rodrigues and Rep. Erin Grall

Cosponsors: Reps. Altman, Andrade, Bell, Borrero, Chaney, Fetterhoff, Fine, Fischer, Gregory, Harding, Hawkins, Leek Maggard, McClain, Plascencia, Rizo, Roth, Sabatini, Salzman, Sirois, Smith (D), Trabulsy, Williamson, Yarborough Sens. Albritton, Baxley

This duplicative and overreaching bill would create a false choice between “parent’s rights” and their children’s constitutional rights. The bill will affect LGBTQ youth by forcing school staff to ‘out’ a young queer person to their parent, against the young person’s will. It would also make it harder for a young person to access basic counseling.

STATUS: The bill passed in both chambers and will go into effect on July 1st, 2021.

HB 935

ANTI-TRANS MEDICAL BAN

by Rep. Anthony Sabatini

Cosponsors: Rep. Bell, Hage

This legislation would have banned medical services to young people even if their parent/guardian consented to the provision of care.

STATUS: Did not see legislative action.