



2021 Legislative Session Wins!

Connecticut's legislative session ended last month, and we have a lot to celebrate! This year, thanks to the tireless work our coalition partners, advocates, legislative champions, and YOU, we once again honored Connecticut's reputation as a leader in the fight for reproductive freedom.



The General Assembly passed important investments and policies that will improve health care access and advance equity in our state. Connecticut passed a two-year budget that:

- includes increased investment in sexual and reproductive health care
- expands access to health care coverage for more residents through the Covered Connecticut program
- extends Medicaid coverage postpartum for one year
- provides coverage for children ages 0-8 and pregnant women, regardless of immigration status

These are important victories especially since many residents still struggle to access health care due to the pandemic and existing barriers, including systemic racism and economic inequity.

New policy that advances health equity in our state declares racism a public health crisis; addresses racial disparities in access to maternal and breast health care; and defines the doula profession in state statute - a critical first step in expanding access to lifesaving doula care.

We passed policies that will:

- Protect patients' privacy and expand access to telehealth
- Regulate deceptive advertising in Crisis Pregnancy Centers
- Improve breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace and combat the gender wage gap
- Support victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence
- Establish equal access to legal parentage rights for LGBTQ+ families

...and so much more! **You can read the full list of our legislative wins on ppvotes.org.**

All of this is thanks to your support. Your action and your donations made a big difference. The work isn't over - we will continue the fight to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health care, protect and expand our rights, and build a more equitable Connecticut.

CT Champions Stand Up for Abortion Access

On May 17, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it would review Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban: a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade* and nearly 50 years of legal precedent. This is just one of 16 cases that are one step away from the Supreme Court and could gut *Roe* - rendering the federal right to abortion meaningless.

We were proud to stand with CT's own champions - Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Attorney General William Tong - alongside NARAL-CT and the ACLU of CT, our partners in the fight for reproductive freedom, at a press conference to send a message loud and clear: we won't go back.

CT Champions (continued)

Since this press conference, yet another state – Texas – has signed into law an unconstitutional ban on abortion at six weeks, before many people know they're pregnant. **We can't stop fighting until we achieve reproductive freedom and every person – no matter who they are or where they live – can access the care they need, including abortion.**



Gretchen Raffa, senior director of public policy, advocacy and organizing (center), joins Attorney General William Tong (left) and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz (right) and our community partners to speak out against Mississippi's abortion ban.

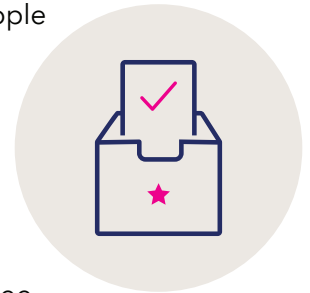
Although the right to safe, legal abortion has been protected in Connecticut state law since 1990, we must raise our voices and use our power to protect abortion access for all people. As the SCOTUS decision to review Mississippi's abortion ban demonstrates, a threat to abortion rights anywhere is a threat to reproductive freedom everywhere. We will fight for the passage of the *Women's Health Protection Act* - introduced by CT U.S. Senator Blumenthal in Congress – to safeguard our fundamental, constitutional right to abortion.

Expanded Voting Access

Last year, during the height of the pandemic, Connecticut instituted several temporary voting reforms to ensure people could cast their ballot safely. **Participation in the 2020 election proved, overwhelmingly, that voters want new policies that will make it easier to vote.**

Exciting news - this year, the General Assembly made some major advancements to our voting laws, including:

- Implementing automatic voter registration
- Restoring voting rights to people on parole
- Providing permanent use of ballot drop boxes
- Requiring employers to allow up to two hours of unpaid time off to vote, if the employee requests in advance



Early voting will be a ballot measure in 2022, but the No-Excuse Absentee ballot measure will have to go back through the legislature in 2023, since it missed the 75% threshold to appear on the 2022 ballot.

But early voting will be on the ballot next year, so get ready to vote!

Current Connecticut 100 Voices Members. *100 Voices for Planned Parenthood is a group of bold philanthropic leaders who share a fierce and unapologetic passion for protecting sexual and reproductive rights who have made a gift of \$1,000 or more to PPV!CT.*

Bridget Baird
Penny Bellamy and Mark Simon
Mr. Randy Reinhold and Ms. Rita D. Berkson
Susan and Jon Beyman
Bob Donnalley
Danielle and Evan Eason
Ms. Tekisha Dwan Everette, Ph.D.
Emily A. Fine, MD and Stephen A. Stein, MD
Elissa Garber-Hyman and James E. Hyman
Ms. Shelley D. Geballe and Mr. Gordon T. Geballe
Dr. Mona Gohara
Steve and Katey Goldberg
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Nancy J. Hutson and Mr. Ian Williams
Ellen B. Lubell and Leslie Byelas
Sheila Mossman
Mrs. Stefanie R. Offit
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Nancie and Mark Schwarzman
Amanda N. Skinner
Mr. David L. Smith and Mrs. Sonya S. Smith
Anne Stanback and Charlotte Kinlock
Susan Surova and Edward Janusz
Ann E. Thomas

List as of 6.30.2021