



Inaugural Edition! Fall 2019

Legislative Session Update

Huge Win in 2019: We Protected Safe, Legal Abortion!

Donors like you helped 2019 become a historic year for Planned Parenthood Votes! Rhode Island (PPV!RI)! Together with our allies in the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom and our champions in the General Assembly, we passed *The Reproductive Privacy Act of 2019*—which safeguards the right to safe, legal abortion in Rhode Island no matter what happens at the federal level. Our movement engaged more than 6,000 Rhode Islanders who came to the State House, met with elected officials, sent emails, made phone calls, knocked on doors, and demanded the General Assembly listen to the will of the people.

Our achievement proves that elections matter! Since 2016, our electoral success led directly to passing the RPA: we've elected 17 new members of the House of Representatives and 8 new members of the Senate, which secured the votes to make the RPA law in Rhode Island!

Passing the RPA was a momentous step forward—but it is only the beginning. Winning a legal right to access health care does not mean we have overcome systemic barriers like poverty and racism. Our work continues to ensure access to comprehensive, quality reproductive health care for all Rhode Islanders.

Some of our priorities for 2020 will include enhancing sexual education curriculum; improving patient privacy; expanding access to reproductive health care by fighting for Medicaid coverage of abortion through state funding; protecting the provisions of the ACA; supporting increases in the minimum wage; and passing a fair pay law to end wage discrimination. These are just a few of our policy priorities—and with your help, we will succeed.



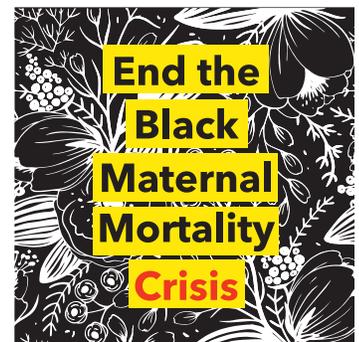
Supporters at the RI State House rally to pass the RPA.

And, just a reminder, 2020 is a big election year. Please get involved—here in Rhode Island so we can move forward on these policy priorities, and nationally so we can end these dangerous and unethical attacks on reproductive rights by the Trump Administration and their allies in Congress.

Addressing a National Maternal Health Crisis

There is a crisis in America—Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die during pregnancy than white women. The risk jumps to 4-5 times more likely in Black women over 30. There is a way to impact this crisis: access to doulas has been proven to reduce adverse birth outcomes.

Joining the efforts of Doulas of Rhode Island, Hope and Change for Haiti, The African Alliance of RI and a myriad of organizations across the state, PPV!RI has worked passionately to provide insurance coverage for perinatal doula services.



Unfortunately, this important bill that would improve maternal health outcomes in RI passed only in the Senate this legislative session. With continued efforts and your support, we will urge the full Assembly to pass legislation to require Medicaid and private insurance coverage of doula services in 2020!

Youth Organizers Take Action On and Off Campus

The Planned Parenthood **Generation Action Internship** is a network of young organizers and activists who take action across Rhode Island on their college campuses and in their communities to mobilize advocates for reproductive freedom. In addition to raising awareness about reproductive rights, Generation Action interns educate young people about sexual health and create lasting change in their communities. Their work uses an intersectional framework that connects reproductive rights to other issues like civil rights, immigration, LGBTQ+ justice, and the environment. **Your donations sustain their effort.**

PPV!RI is excited to welcome Tiara Mack as the new Youth Organizing Specialist overseeing the Generation Action program. Tiara was a Generation Action intern at Brown University in 2016, and has spent her career since advancing reproductive freedom. Tiara has been an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice in Rhode Island, speaking out on behalf of the *Reproductive Privacy Act of 2019* to protect abortion access. She has taught comprehensive sex education in Providence schools as an undergraduate and continues to work as an educator and community organizer. Under Tiara's leadership, recruitment for new Generation Action interns is underway!

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD
GENERATION
ACTION**
Planned Parenthood Action Fund

Disability Rights Activism

As a member of the Rhode Island Disability Rights and Access Coalition, PPV!RI was proud to help pass a bill to ensure appropriate disability language is used in all job descriptions and statutes.

Additionally, the Coalition, alongside our PPV!RI disability rights interns, worked in partnership with other disability rights organizations and activists on the *Preservation of Families with Disabled Parent Act*, which passed the Senate. This bill precludes the disability of a parent from serving as a basis for denial or restriction in matters involving a child's welfare, foster care, family law, guardianship and adoption. We will continue our work in 2020 to see this pass both chambers and become RI law.

Organizing for Latinx Action

Starting in 2018, PPV!RI joined Planned Parenthood's RAZ program to focus on issues impacting the Latinx community in Rhode Island. Throughout the 2019 legislative session, RAZ worked in partnership with The Immigrant Coalition of RI on a bill that would grant all undocumented Rhode Island residents the ability to obtain a driver's license. RAZ is also working alongside Progreso Latino to implement protection regulations against ICE in Central Falls, where the community has a higher percentage of Latinx people and mixed legal status households. **In one year's time, RAZ has already gained 200+ supporters in Rhode Island and has built new relationships with other community organizations.**

Current Rhode Island 100 Voices Members. *100 Voices for Planned Parenthood is a group of bold philanthropic leaders who share a fierce and unapologetic passion for reproductive access who have made a gift of \$1,000 or more to Planned Parenthood Votes! Rhode Island.*

Anonymous (3)
Representative Edith H. Ajello
Rev. Dr. David Ames and Dr. Carol Landau
George T. Boyer
Mary and Nate Chace
Ms. Elizabeth Chace
Mrs. Judith Clark and Mr. David Clark
Mr. Robert R. Faulkner and
Mrs. Pamela Faulkner
Patricia Fuller
Sarah and Michael Garrison
Doree Goodman and Michael Gerhardt
Vidya Gopinath

Dr. Alma Guerrero Bready and
Dr. Barrett Bready
Ms. Cynthia Hughes and Mr. John F. Hughes
Simone Joyaux
Linda and Harold Kushner
Ms. Sally E. Lapidés and
Mr. Arthur P. Solomon
Tina and Jerry McIntyre
Ms. Allison McMillan and Mr. Mark Nickel
Cynthia B. Patterson
Ms. Sarah and Craig B. Richardson and
Mr. Craig Richardson
Allen and Barbara Scott

Sara G. Shaw
Rosalyn Sinclair
Brett Smiley and Jim DeRentis
Ms. Barbara Sokoloff and
Dr. Herbert Rakatansky
Virginia Soutter
Ms. Sally Strachan
Ms. Laurette Bradley and
Dr. Augustus K. Uht
Mr. Don E. Wineberg Esq. and
Mrs. Kitty Wineberg
Hon. Myrth York and Mr. David Green