

## Care For All: A 3-Part Plan to Protect and Expand Access to Abortion in the United States

There's no way to sugarcoat it. With Brett Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court, we are likely to see the further erosion of *Roe v. Wade* in the very near future. There are 13 abortion-related cases that are just one step away from the Supreme Court, and 20 states are poised to ban abortion should *Roe v. Wade* be overturned.

Because of restrictions across the country, a large number of people already face nearly insurmountable barriers to accessing abortion or live in areas where they're forced to travel hundreds of miles or across state lines just to access care. **If *Roe* is gutted or overturned**, that number will increase exponentially, leaving more than [25 million women](#) — or one-third of women of reproductive age in this country — without access to safe, legal abortion in their own state. This includes more than 4.3 million Hispanic or Latino women, nearly 3.5 million Black or African American women, more than 800,000 Asian women, and nearly 300,000 American Indian or Alaska Native women of reproductive age (see [U.S. Census](#)).

Planned Parenthood is not going to let this become a country where people can no longer access abortion — or where they ultimately lose the fundamental right to decide if or when to become a parent. We have a plan — a plan we have been working on since before Trump and Pence took office. With the confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, we are kicking our plan into high gear. This multi-million dollar, nationwide effort will be working to ensure that abortion is still accessible in the United States, no matter what happens at the Supreme Court.

### **PART ONE: Access to Health Care**

*Planned Parenthood will expand services in states where abortion is likely to remain legal and accessible, and invest in technology and other resources to help people living in hostile states access abortion, no matter what. We'll do this through investing in a **Regional Access Network**, expanding where we offer **telemedicine**, and leveraging **technology and innovation** to help connect people to services.*

In order for patients to access safe, legal abortion, there must first be abortion services for them to access. Therefore, Planned Parenthood is doubling down on where and what services are offered to patients.

First, in states where abortion is likely to remain legal and accessible, Planned Parenthood is investing in and expanding a **Regional Access Network**. This is a robust network of Planned Parenthood and independent health care providers that will serve as crucial access points for people living in states where abortion either becomes inaccessible or is banned completely.

For example, in **California**, one of the few states that constitutionally and statutorily protects the right to abortion, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California is seeking ways to increase access

to abortion for people with low incomes, including financial support for women who have to travel long distances, as well as planning how to facilitate telehealth care and transportation for patients facing obstacles to care.

Another example is in **Illinois**, which already serves an important role in the growing abortion desert of the Midwest. Planned Parenthood of Illinois is aggressively expanding services and access to health care. By next summer, they will offer medication abortion at all 17 health centers in Illinois, and they will be opening a new health center by next year. We're also opening new health centers across the country — for example, in [El Paso, Texas](#) and [Richmond, Virginia](#). El Paso was previously the largest city in America without a Planned Parenthood health center.

Planned Parenthood will also be expanding its **telemedicine** services to increase access to medication abortion for patients living in remote communities. Currently, Planned Parenthood health centers in 14 states use [telemedicine](#) to provide medication abortion services, but that number will increase soon.

Finally, Planned Parenthood will leverage **technology and innovation** to ensure patients, no matter what state they live in, can connect to resources and determine how and where they can access abortion.

## **PART TWO: Policy**

*We'll partner with state advocates and coalition partners to determine how we can use state policies to ensure there's an **ironclad network** of states across the country where abortion will still be legal, no matter what happens at the Supreme Court. We'll also continue to **fight bad laws** and work to **enact good laws** that both protect and expand access to abortion.*

It's no secret that, on the federal level, the Trump-Pence administration has spent nearly two years waging an all-out war on reproductive health care access. But for years, many states have been making strides to expand access to reproductive health care. In 2018 alone, advocates introduced **869 positive measures** expanding reproductive health care — the highest number of policies introduced to advance reproductive rights in a single legislative session ever. In tandem, advocates and pro-women's health legislators **blocked or delayed 93 percent of the state-level abortion restrictions** introduced in the 2018 legislative session.

**Now, Planned Parenthood Action Fund will kick off the 2019 legislative session by doubling down on this work.** We will be working with more than half of the states in the country to push policies to protect, expand, and enhance access to safe, legal abortion. In addition, Planned Parenthood advocacy organizations will double down and drive robust multi-year campaigns to create policy change in at least 10 of the states that will be key to creating a Regional Access Network for abortion. For example:

- In **Illinois**, Planned Parenthood of Illinois has already worked alongside state advocates to provide coverage for safe, legal abortion for women who rely on public programs. Now, they're looking at how they can codify the right to abortion in state law.
- In **Maine**, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England is moving to ensure women insured through public programs can have comprehensive coverage — including abortion — through legislation and litigation.
- In **Rhode Island**, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England will work in the 2019 legislative session to codify the right to safe, legal abortion in state law.
- In **Oregon**, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is implementing the Reproductive Health Equity Act, which guarantees no-cost coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health care, including access to abortion — regardless of gender identity, citizenship status, or income. In addition, Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette is constructing a new health center in East Portland to better serve the needs of the growing metropolitan area.
- In **Hawaii**, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands is working to expand access to safe, legal abortion by advancing comprehensive coverage of reproductive health care, including abortion — regardless of income, immigration status, or gender identity.
- In **Washington**, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands is focusing on passing the Reproductive Health Equity Access bill — legislation that helps remove barriers to abortion and health care for the transgender community and immigrants, including undocumented people.

We'll continue to do this work in many more states across the country. And in states where we anticipate attacks on our patients and their access to safe, legal abortion, we plan to fight tooth and nail and continue to defeat hostile policies intent on shaming our patients and rendering abortion inaccessible.

### **PART THREE: Culture Change**

*Finally, we'll be fighting abortion restrictions at their source: the stigma that still surrounds abortion in this country. We'll be enhancing our efforts to destigmatize abortion in the media and across popular culture — including working with the music, fashion, movie, and television industries, and announcing additional public awareness campaigns in the coming months.*

No patient should ever delay seeking care because they fear they'll be judged; nor should providers be harrassed for providing care that patients want and need. At Planned Parenthood, we've seen firsthand the impact that stigma, shame, and silence can have on both patients and health care providers, which is why we are committed to reducing abortion stigma in as many

spaces as possible. While we already do work in this area, we will escalate our plans to combat stigma and shift the culture around abortion, including:

- ***Working with content creators on honest and authentic portrayals of abortion in film and television.*** We've seen the power of pop culture to help challenge stigma and change the conversation about abortion. That is why we've collaborated with shows like *Jane the Virgin* and *GLOW* as well as movies like *Obvious Child* to help ensure audiences see real-life, sensitive portrayals of abortion and patients' experiences.
- ***Educating people about what abortion is and why it's an important part of reproductive health care, as well as helping people understand the effects of abortion stigma.*** We have been using technology successfully to help people understand the reality of safe, legal abortion and what patients experience when having an abortion with tools like the relaunched PlannedParenthood.org; educational videos on abortion; and our work on the VR film *Across the Line*.
- ***Creating resources to encourage accurate, nonjudgmental conversations about abortion so people have the tools they need to reduce abortion stigma in their lives and in their communities.*** We want to help as many people as possible understand what abortion stigma is and how people in different communities – including communities of color and the LGBTQ community – may experience it. And we're also working on how to reduce stigma in our own lives, work spaces, and relationships.

We'll also be announcing additional public awareness campaigns in the coming months to help educate people about what abortion is and why it's a critical – and normal – part of reproductive health care.

We know this is a winnable fight. **The vast majority of this country supports the right to access abortion safely and legally.** In fact, 72 percent of Americans – [including a majority of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans](#) – do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned.

**Your right to control your body and your future should not depend on your zip code, and your access to health care should not depend on your income. That's why Planned Parenthood will never stop fighting for every person's right to access safe, legal abortion. We will never back down – and today we are fighting for all of our rights and freedoms.** No matter what Donald Trump, Mike Pence, or Brett Kavanaugh may say, each of us deserves the right to control our own bodies – including the right to decide if and when to become a parent. Now is the time to unite, work together, and fight forward to protect our constitutional right to safe, legal abortion and equity in health care access for all.