



Legislative Session Update

The Connecticut legislative session began on February 5, and Planned Parenthood Votes! Connecticut (PPV!CT) is proud to work in coalition to advance important policies and legislation that protect and expand sexual and reproductive health and rights for our residents.

Last year, when the Trump administration's 'gag rule' forced Planned Parenthood out of Title X, the nation's only program for affordable family planning services, PPV!CT committed to fight back for the nearly 42,000 people in Connecticut who relied on Title X funding to access essential services like birth control, cancer screenings, and wellness exams.

We are working to put patients over politics and protect access to sexual and reproductive health care. PPV!CT is grateful to see the demonstrated commitment from Governor Lamont and elected leaders to support state funding to help fill the \$2.1 million loss to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. This funding would help keep preventive reproductive health care accessible for the people of Connecticut who struggle to afford these basic needs. With your support, we are working to ensure that the upcoming state budget includes funding that helps Planned Parenthood continue to provide education, information, and care, no matter what.

In addition, we continue the fight against the Black maternal mortality crisis by supporting the Doulas 4 CT coalition in securing Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement for perinatal doula services. This will help mothers – especially Black mothers – achieve more positive birth outcomes by reducing medical interventions and preventing long labor and deliveries.

Other policy and legislative priorities include:

- Passing Explanation of Benefits legislation that protects patient privacy and gives everyone the confidence to safely use their insurance
- Ensuring Connecticut's undocumented residents are covered by public and private insurance

- Holding Crisis Pregnancy Centers accountable for deceptive marketing and advertising practices
- Fighting back against any legislation that restricts reproductive rights or creates barriers to care

Follow us on social media [@PPVotesCT](#) to learn more about how to get involved in our policy work.



(L to R): PPV!CT President & CEO Amanda Skinner, Judy Blei, and Deja Foxx at Sex, Politics & Cocktails.

Deja Foxx Gets Us Fired Up!

On November 6, 2019, nearly 200 PPV!CT supporters and champions joined us for Sex, Politics, and Cocktails at Theaterworks in Hartford to hear from Deja Foxx, a reproductive rights activist, and to honor longtime advocate and former PPSNE lobbyist, Judy Blei.

Foxx, who is best known for her viral confrontation with former Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) over 'defunding' Planned Parenthood, encouraged activists to work together to achieve equity. "When I think about barriers to health care, I think of wasted potential. Not just those of us here, but everyone. Because when one of us does better we all do better. We are most successful together."

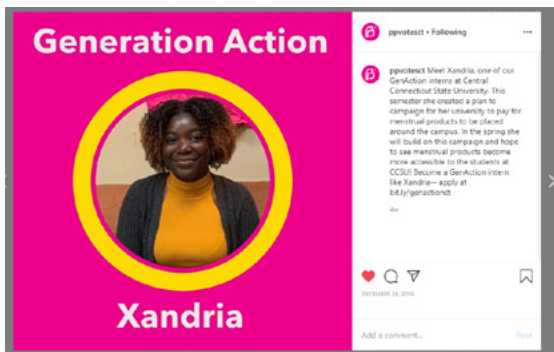
Together, we raised **more than \$42,000** – almost double our goal! – to support PPV!CT advocacy and electoral work in 2020. Thank you!

Generation Action Takes to Social Media

Are you following us on social media? If not, you're missing out! We'll be posting updates from our Gen Action interns from across the state, including **Anna** and **Christine** from the University of Connecticut and **Xandria** from Central Connecticut State University.



Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook @PPVotesCT to learn more about how your support helps these amazing interns organize around sexual and reproductive rights and health on campus and in their communities.



New Trump Attacks = Why Elections Matter

Once again, the Trump administration is attacking health care access and making it harder for people in Connecticut and across the country to get the care they need. The most recent attacks include:

A new federal rule would demand a **segregation of funds** for health insurance plans sold on the exchange, requiring two separate bills and separate payments: one for abortion, one for any other medical service. This could lead to more than three million people losing coverage for abortion or paying more for health insurance – another attempt by the Trump administration to restrict abortion coverage on private plans from exchanges like Access Health CT. On February 11, the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and consumers filed a lawsuit to challenge this new rule in federal court.

The Supreme Court recently ruled on Trump's **public charge rule**, allowing the government to deny issuing green cards and visas to immigrants who use social services – including health care – that they are legally entitled to access.

These are blatant attempts to eliminate access to abortion and deny people the human right to health care. Your support of PPV!CT helps us elect reproductive rights champions in Connecticut who will stand up to these harmful policies.

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.*

Anonymous
 Anonymous
 In memory of Dr. Jonathan Belcher
 Amanda and Scott Aronson
 Penny Bellamy and Mark Simon
 Sen. Alex Kasser
 Ms. Susan B. Beyman
 Ms. Leslie S. Bhutani and Mr. Ashish Bhutani
 Ms. Judith Blei and Mr. Ron Blei
 Gayle L. Capozzalo and Dr. Jack K. Heil
 Bob Donnalley
 Danielle and Evan Eason
 Emily A. Fine, MD and Stephen A. Stein, MD
 Ms. Deborah J. Freedman and Mr. Ben A. Ledbetter, Jr.
 Elissa Garber-Hyman and James E. Hyman
 Ms. Shelley D. Geballe and Mr. Gordon T. Geballe
 Daniel Handler and Lisa Brown

Ms. Deb W. Heinrich
 Sue Hessel and Karen Dahle
 Laurel and Scott Johnson
 Mrs. Nancy L. Johnson and Dr. Theodore H. Johnson
 Mr. Henry D. Lord
 Sheila Mossman
 Mrs. Katharine B. Mountcastle
 Patricia A. Rossi and Robert King, MD
 Nancie and Mark Schwarzman
 Sara G. Shaw
 Amanda N. Skinner
 Skip and Jo Sly
 Mr. David L. Smith and Mrs. Sonya S. Smith
 Anne E. Stanback and Charlotte M. Kinlock
 Judy and Scott Tabar
 Ann E. Thomas
 Karen and William Watt