Dear Friends,

Two thousand eighteen was a year of dramatic highs and lows for reproductive freedom.

Nationally, the Trump Administration and an anti-choice Congress threatened healthcare, especially reproductive healthcare, at every possible turn. The nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court signaled a new and more frightening era, creating an existential threat to *Roe v. Wade* and abortion access throughout the country.

The precarious national landscape created an opportunity for NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts (NARAL MA) and our reproductive freedom legislative agenda: five key reproductive freedom bills became law. NARAL MA and our coalition partners paved the way for the Commonwealth to be a leader for reproductive freedom on the national stage. The repeal of Massachusetts’ pre-*Roe* criminal abortion ban was the cornerstone of our work, strengthening the Commonwealth’s commitment to protecting access to abortion care. To do this, we activated a record number of Bay Staters in the fight to protect and expand reproductive freedom. You made your voices heard on Beacon Hill and propelled our agenda forward.

I am especially proud of the NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts PAC. We helped elect three new pro-choice representatives in the House and one new pro-choice senator, solidifying our pro-choice majority in the legislature. The voters of Massachusetts sent a clear message to Beacon Hill that pro-choice politics win.

Our Foundation launched an extensive survey of the deceptive practices of Fake Women’s Health Centers in Massachusetts and updated our Guide to Abortion Care in Massachusetts (launching in-print and online in 2019!) that will serve as the most comprehensive resource available to people seeking abortion care in Massachusetts.

Finally, we brought together our organization’s past and present leadership in an inspiring and motivating celebration of the 45th anniversary of our organization. For 45 years, your generosity of time and resources has built the pro-choice movement in Massachusetts. I was reminded once again that our supporters — you — make all of this work possible. Our movement is stronger and more effective than ever before, leveraging grassroots power to win campaigns and drive proactive policy change. For that, I thank you.

It is with deep gratitude to you that I share these 2018 accomplishments, and it is thanks to your continued commitment that we are able to be even bolder in 2019. Our agenda is audacious: we will reform our state’s abortion laws, ensuring that anyone, regardless of age, race, income, insurance coverage, or gender identity, can access safe, legal abortion.

Onward!

*Rebecca Hart Holder*
Executive Director
NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts
Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation
January
We celebrated the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Reminded that the threat to abortion care loomed larger and larger, we launched a history project to understand how a group of activists came together in 1972 to push for safe and legal abortion in Massachusetts. Based on this project, we doubled down on our efforts to repeal the Massachusetts pre-*Roe* criminal abortion ban.

February
We began updating our Guide to Abortion Care in Massachusetts, ensuring that those seeking abortion services have the facts and information about where to receive comprehensive care. First published in 2011, NARAL MA’s Abortion Care Guide helps those facing unwanted pregnancy or pregnancy complications locate clinics that provide counseling on the full range of options and provide abortion care. The update will ensure that people in the Commonwealth continue to have access to accurate information about the services available to them.

March
We helped pass the PATCH Act, guaranteeing that sensitive healthcare services remain private. This law eliminated a crucial barrier to accessing healthcare by ensuring that, when multiple people are on the same insurance plan, confidential healthcare information is not shared with anyone other than the patient. The passage of the PATCH Act increases the safety of domestic violence survivors, LGBTQ youth, youth seeking reproductive healthcare, and people with substance use disorder, among others.
April

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act went into effect. In 2017, we advocated for passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, establishing explicit legal protections for pregnant workers. Thanks to a coalition of organizations, including NARAL MA, pregnant workers in the Commonwealth are now protected from on-the-job discrimination. Pregnant workers, like all workers, deserve equal treatment protections; ensuring their rights is crucial to reproductive freedom.

May

The ACCESS law went into effect. Immediately following the 2016 presidential election, NARAL MA, with the Coalition for Choice, led advocacy efforts for the ACCESS Bill. The bill ensures that all insurance carriers in Massachusetts provide all FDA-approved contraceptive methods with no copay, including over-the-counter emergency contraception. The ACCESS Bill was signed into law on November 20, 2017.

June

We collaborated with Raise Up Massachusetts in the fight to ensure Massachusetts workers receive paid family and medical leave. After long conversations with elected officials, the Raise Up Coalition, including NARAL MA, was able to guarantee that workers in Massachusetts will receive paid leave to recover from a serious illness or injury, to care for an ill or injured family member, or to care for a new child.

We hosted roundtable discussions across the state to shed light on the misleading actions of Fake Women’s Health Centers (FWHCs). With 31 centers in Massachusetts and thousands across the country, FWHCs (also known as crisis pregnancy centers) shame, deceive and scare women out of seeking abortion care. Our discussions about FWHCs in Massachusetts help move us towards a future when women are able to make informed choices without anti-choice propaganda.

We celebrated 45 years of advocating for reproductive freedom in Massachusetts. Since 1972, NARAL MA has been a leading pro-choice advocacy organization in the Commonwealth. This accomplishment was marked with a sold out event at the Omni Parker House in Boston, celebrating the people who have helped shape the legacy of NARAL MA throughout its history.
July
We worked with legislators to repeal the pre-Roe abortion ban. Following the retirement of Justice Kennedy from the United States Supreme Court, we worked closely with House and Senate leadership to repeal a number of harmful archaic laws which could limit reproductive freedoms – and even criminalize abortion – in Massachusetts should federal protections fall. With their repeal, we ensured that these rights will always be protected.

August
We spearheaded Massachusetts’ resistance to the Kavanaugh nomination. The nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court set off widespread protests across the country, with NARAL MA leading the resistance in the Bay State. We held house parties across MA to call voters in states with Senators who had not declared a position and patched them through to their Senator’s office to encourage opposition to his confirmation. This resulted in thousands of calls to voters in North Dakota, West Virginia, Maine, and Alaska.

September
In partnership with the National Institute for Reproductive Health Action Fund, we conducted a poll with MassINC on abortion attitudes in Massachusetts. The research confirmed that more than 8 in 10 voters – including Catholic voters – want Roe v. Wade to be upheld, and three-quarters support increasing access to abortion care services. This poll is crucial in demonstrating to politicians that protecting reproductive healthcare is not just good policy, it is also good politics.

October
In coalition with allied organizations, we led and coordinated a hugely successful rally at City Hall Plaza in Boston to oppose the Kavanaugh nomination and support Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. We were joined by U.S. Senator Ed Markey, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka, student activists, and multiple survivors of violence who are fighting for change. We were also joined by special guests Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Olympic medalist/activist Adam Rippon!

We launched an independent expenditure to help elect Tram Nguyen. Nguyen unseated Jim Lyons, the most anti-choice legislator in MA.
November
We hosted our first sit-down dinner event and honored Attorney General Maura Healey at Champions for Choice 2018. The event raised more than ever before!

We released the Reproductive Freedom Scorecard. In this time of federal crisis, Massachusetts voters need and deserve a transparent legislative scorecard to inform their understanding of how their elected officials stand on reproductive freedom. NARAL MA created our first-ever legislative scorecard to shed light on our elected representatives’ stance on reproductive freedom.

Our Political Action Committee and volunteers worked tirelessly during the 2018 electoral cycle, and that hard work reaped dividends. We helped elect three new pro-choice Representatives and one new pro-choice Senator to seats previously held by anti-choice legislators, solidifying our pro-choice majority.

December
We worked with the Coalition for Choice to draft bold legislation for the 2019-2020 session, paving the way for the ROE Act. The ROE Act would reform our state’s abortion laws, ensuring that anyone, regardless of age, income, insurance, can access safe, legal abortion. In addition to explicitly affirming the right to abortion in state law, this bill would remove mandatory parental consent to abortion, which disproportionately impacts low-income teens and teens of color; allow for abortions after 24 weeks in cases of lethal fetal anomalies; and much more. Be in touch with us to discover how you can support the passage of the ROE Act and our 2019 agenda.
4 seats flipped pro-choice in the state legislature

5 new pro-choice bills became law or went into effect

522 students engaged on college campuses

1,500 people took to the streets to oppose the Kavanaugh nomination

2,940 pro-choice voters’ doors knocked

540,886 people viewed our PSA about abortion access in Massachusetts

20,2228 pro-choice activists engaged

Tram Nguyen
WINS!
State House
18th Essex

Women’s rights are human rights.
Kelsey Manders is pursuing a Masters of Social Work at Boston University. Hailing from Green Bay, Wisconsin, she first became acquainted with issues such as gender-based violence and reproductive rights by volunteering for a rape crisis hotline and Planned Parenthood in college. After college, she worked in activist circles in Wisconsin where she learned about macro social work, which focuses on organizing and policy change, pushing her to pursue an MSW. Through her field placement at NARAL MA, Kelsey is applying in the field the theories she’s learning in class. Her primary projects this year include scaling up our campus program and coordinating our Bad Old Days group – a network of those who remember the time before Roe v. Wade and are fighting to safeguard abortion access in Massachusetts. Working with these different generations of activists, Kelsey says, has confirmed for her that the fight for reproductive freedom is one that will never be over and requires people of all ages to become involved. After graduating, Kelsey wants to explore gender equity work through a criminal justice lens.

DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts and the Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation are proud to work with high school, college, and graduate student interns. Here are two interns who are making a real impact.

Halle Jeremie

Halle Jeremie is a double major in Africana Studies and Political Science at Simmons University in Boston. Originally from Haiti and raised in Brockton, Massachusetts, Halle grew up in a home that spoke openly and compassionately about reproductive healthcare, including abortion. As she got older, Halle was shocked to learn how stigmatized and inaccessible abortion care is for many people in the Commonwealth. Her belief that our democracy and laws, though flawed, are vital tools in the pursuit of equity and justice, propelled Halle to choose her areas of study. It also brought her to our team where she supports our fundraising efforts as a Development Intern. In the summer of 2018, through her NARAL MA internship, Halle was also able to intern on now-Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley’s campaign. With the dual experiences of working at a grassroots-based political organization and with Massachusetts’ first congresswoman of color, Halle feels even more encouraged to engage with the legal system. After college, Halle hopes to attend law school, further equipping her to be a champion of justice for all.

Kelsey Manders

Kelsey Manders is pursuing a Masters of Social Work at Boston University. Hailing from Green Bay, Wisconsin, she first became acquainted with issues such as gender-based violence and reproductive rights by volunteering for a rape crisis hotline and Planned Parenthood in college. After college, she worked in activist circles in Wisconsin where she learned about macro social work, which focuses on organizing and policy change, pushing her to pursue an MSW. Through her field placement at NARAL MA, Kelsey is applying in the field the theories she’s learning in class. Her primary projects this year include scaling up our campus program and coordinating our Bad Old Days group – a network of those who remember the time before Roe v. Wade and are fighting to safeguard abortion access in Massachusetts. Working with these different generations of activists, Kelsey says, has confirmed for her that the fight for reproductive freedom is one that will never be over and requires people of all ages to become involved. After graduating, Kelsey wants to explore gender equity work through a criminal justice lens.
If we are going to be the firewall of reproductive freedom in the United States, we have a lot more work to do. In 2019, we’ll be fighting to:

- Pass the ROE Act, removing existing barriers and expanding access to abortion care in the Commonwealth
- Stand with legislators who embrace reproductive freedom
- Motivate voters across Massachusetts to vote pro-choice
- Actively and effectively defend against anti-choice efforts, including state ballot initiatives and federal attacks
- Give legislators the tools they need to be reproductive freedom leaders on Beacon Hill

We also strongly believe that efforts to safeguard immigrant communities and prevent the separation of families are reproductive freedom issues. NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts will continue to stand with our partners who are spearheading the work to protect immigrants.

JOIN US

The critical work of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts and the Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation would not be possible without the support of people like you. Please give today!

- Mail a check or give online at prochoicemass.org
- Become a Monthly Supporter
- Give the gift of stock
- Throw a houseparty
- Sign up to volunteer
NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts is a state affiliate of NARAL Pro-Choice America and is the political, grassroots arm of the pro-choice movement in Massachusetts. Our mission is to develop and sustain a grassroots constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing safe, legal and accessible abortion.

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts, Inc. is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization founded in 1972. While not tax-deductible, a donation to NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts is the best way to impact political change.

The Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation is the research and education arm of our movement. The Foundation does not do direct political work, but its work in the areas of consumer research, public policy, public education, and leadership development complement the advocacy work done by NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts.

The Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1979. Gifts to the Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts PAC helps elect pro-choice champions into state and local offices by providing financial and in-kind campaign contributions to candidates it has endorsed.

The NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts PAC was founded in 1981. Donations to any Political Action Committee are not tax-deductible.
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