Dear NARAL Massachusetts Community,

The ROE Act is law! It is thrilling to look back on this difficult year and be able to celebrate such a monumental milestone. The multi-year investment we made in passing this groundbreaking legislation would not have been possible without the investment all of you – the pro-choice majority – made in NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts and the Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation (collectively NARAL Massachusetts). From your phone-banking, emailing, postcard writing, research help, and lobbying to your financial investment, this victory is a credit to people coming together to fight for gender equality. And now, with passage of the ROE Act, Massachusetts has become a national leader in access to reproductive healthcare.

But let’s be honest. This year has been difficult for all of us in spite of our success. At the beginning of 2020, NARAL Massachusetts grappled with another year under an anti-choice presidential administration, prepared to continue our fight to pass the ROE Act, and steeled ourselves for anti-choice U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Though we began the year optimistic, 2020 shook us to our cores. From the COVID-19 pandemic to the racial injustices we witnessed all too vividly with the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, the death of Justice Ginsburg, the elevation of another anti-choice justice to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the insurrection against our country in early 2021, this year has shown us what it means to be strong in the face of opposition and horrific loss.

Still, as I look back on the year, I can say with pride and joy that NARAL Massachusetts staff rose to the occasion. We refused to give up, and as a result of our perseverance and smart work, we have tremendous wins to celebrate. As you will read in our 2020 annual report, we accomplished so much while pivoting our work quickly and successfully to adapt to our changing world and work circumstance.

Let me highlight a few things I am particularly proud of this year, in addition to our work on the ROE Act. Together with a coalition of activists, we worked hard to pass into law an Act to Reduce Racial Inequities in Maternal Health which creates a commission to examine the Black maternal mortality crisis and recommend policy solutions to the state legislature to combat the crisis. The Commission will be made up of public health experts, community leaders, and people of color who have been disproportionately impacted by inequities in our health care system.

Shortly after Massachusetts closed down in March, the staff sprang into action as we realized that the suspension of elective surgery by the Governor could impact timely access to abortion care. We worked with the Governor’s Office to ensure that abortion access would be protected during the outbreak and explicitly excepted from the elective surgery ban – making Massachusetts the first state in the nation to do so. We also updated biweekly our Guide to Abortion Care with information to help people navigate reproductive healthcare decisions during the pandemic.
We had incredible success in 2020, and we will be building on our work in 2021. The fight is not over – we have major implementation hurdles to clear for the ROE Law and our birth control mandate – but, with your support and partnership, we proved that we can do the impossible.

Onward!

Rebecca Hart Holder
Executive Director
NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts
Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation

THE ROE ACT

- Codifies the right to abortion in state law;
- Improves youth access by allowing 16 and 17 year olds to make their own decisions about abortion care and allowing remote hearings for those under 16 years old, eliminating the need for young people to travel to a courthouse;
- Enables families to obtain care later in pregnancy in cases of lethal fetal diagnosis without having to travel across the country, including repealing criminal penalties for abortion care later in pregnancy; and
- Expands the scope of practice of advanced practice clinicians to allow them to provide abortion care consistent with their training.
January

**New year, same fight.** We picked up where we left off in 2019 in our fight for the ROE Act, our priority legislation that would protect and expand access to abortion in Massachusetts, by removing anti-choice, medically unnecessary barriers to abortion care. The ROE Act Coalition held town-hall style briefings in Chicopee, Martha’s Vineyard, and the Cape to strengthen grassroots support across Massachusetts.

February

On a cold and blustery day at the crack of dawn, a van full of dedicated activists, volunteers, and staff members drove to New Hampshire to hear from the Democratic presidential candidates at a town hall co-hosted by NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Later in the month, nearly **100 people attended a ROE Act community briefing at Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield** organized by NARAL MA’s own Kate Froehlich in collaboration with Rabbi Liz Hirsch, Women of Reform Judaism, and the Religious Action Center. Members of Temple Anshe Amunim, Hevreh of Southern Berkshires in Great Barrington, the South Congregational Church of Pittsfield, and other community members listened to faith leaders, educators, and activists discuss the importance of the ROE Act and how their religious values inform their support for reproductive freedom.

March

March began on a high note when more than 70 ROE Act Coalition staff members and volunteers spent Super Tuesday at the polls collecting ROE Act postcards in strategic districts across the state resulting in over 1,500 signed-postcards delivered to state legislators in support of the ROE Act.

The March special elections marked the beginning of the electoral season where NARAL MA fought to elect reproductive freedom champions. With the endorsement of the NARAL MA PAC, Kate Lipper-Garabedian won the special election for the 32nd Middlesex District seat in the House. Shortly thereafter, the PAC endorsed Dan Sena for State Representative of the 37th Middlesex District, Carol Doherty for State Representative of the 3rd Bristol District, and Su Moran for State Senator of the Plymouth and Barnstable District ahead of their June special elections.
The rapid onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic changed the trajectory of our work. We pivoted quickly to ensure timely access to reproductive health care services in Massachusetts during the pandemic, while also transitioning to entirely remote work. On the evening of March 15th, Governor Baker issued an executive order banning elective procedures. Our team immediately went into action, advocating to the Baker administration to ensure that abortion care and other reproductive health care services were exempt from this ban. Two days later, the administration issued guidance which explicitly stated that abortion was essential care and not subject to the ban. As a result of our advocacy, Massachusetts became one of very first states to categorize abortion care as essential during the pandemic.

We also updated our Guide to Abortion Care in Massachusetts to keep Bay Staters informed about where they could still access the timely reproductive health care services they needed during the pandemic.

April

The ROE Act Coalition hosted a virtual townhall, attended by over 200 participants, to update our supporters on the status of the ROE Act in light of COVID-19 and the path forward.

We debuted our Pro-Choice Check-in webinar series, bringing together medical experts, lawmakers, and activists for in-depth discussions on reproductive freedom. Pro-Choice Check-in guests included Senator Ed Markey, State Representative Liz Miranda, Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu, Dr. Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, Lauren Birchfield Kennedy, Anabel Santiago, and many more!

May

Working remotely did not prevent us from supporting our endorsed candidates! We mobilized our members and volunteers to help drive voter contact and partnered with our allies at Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund to phonebank for endorsed candidates and reproductive freedom champions Su Moran, Carol Doherty, and Dan Sena.

On May 19th, with help from NARAL MA staff and volunteers, Su Moran won her special election, defeating a radical anti-abortion opponent and flipping an anti-choice seat.

June

With the help of NARAL MA and our driven volunteers, reproductive freedom champions continued their electoral winning streak. Both Dan Sena and Carol Doherty won their special elections, expanding the House’s pro-choice majority. Doherty’s victory meant we flipped an anti-choice seat to a pro-choice seat.

Our annual Champions for Choice fundraiser took place on June 11th. While it looked different from years past, it was a great (virtual) event in honor of our 2020 Champion for Choice, Su Moran WINS! MA State Senate Plymouth & Barnstable District

ROE Act champion Su Moran flipped an anti-choice Senate seat and defended it against a radical anti-abortion challenger twice in 2020.

On June 29th, the United States Supreme Court struck down an anti-choice Louisiana law in June Medical Services v. Russo, protecting abortion care from immediate attack across the country. This was an important victory but, in his opinion, Chief Justice Roberts left the door open for future restrictions on abortion access.

As activists across the country came together to support racial justice and the Black Lives Matter movement, the House unanimously passed An Act to Reduce Racial Inequities in Maternal Health, one of NARAL MA’s legislative priorities. In Massachusetts, a Black woman is twice as likely as a white woman to die from pregnancy-related complications. This bill will create a commission made up of community leaders, health care researchers, and advocates to identify the root causes of these disparities and issue policy recommendations to the state legislature to end the Black maternal mortality crisis.

**July**

On the heels of the decision in June v. Russo, the ROE Act Coalition hosted a virtual rally to galvanize our supporters. Congressman Ayanna Pressley, Attorney General Maura Healey, Representative Tram Nguyen, and Representative Jon Santiago headlined the event, urging the 322 attendees to contact their state legislators.

In partnership with the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of Massachusetts, our PAC announced the endorsement of 86 ROE Act Champions—incumbent legislators who were active partners and champions for the bill during the 2019-2020 legislative session. The reproductive freedom and justice movements achieved another major victory when the State Senate passed An Act to Reduce Racial Inequities in Maternal Health.

We were proud to join our progressive allies in calling for the State legislature to enact comprehensive police reform.

**August**

In August, we debuted the Reproductive Vote Builders program, a grassroots organizing effort. Over the next three months, more than 100 volunteers mailed postcards, made phone calls, and texted voters in key districts, urging them to support our endorsed candidates.
The NARAL MA PAC proudly endorsed Brandy Fluker Oakley for State Representative of the 12th Suffolk District. Oakley saw firsthand how barriers to abortion care disproportionately impact vulnerable groups when she helped a young person navigate medically unnecessary restrictions to access the care they needed. Brandy was one of our many endorsed candidates who won a seat in the state legislature.

September

Reproductive freedom won big on Primary Day. Not a single incumbent who supported the ROE Act lost to an anti-choice challenger, no pro-choice seats were flipped to anti-choice, and over 75 percent of our endorsed candidates won their primaries.

When we learned about the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on September 18th, we hardened our sorrow into resolve to pass the ROE Act. We issued a statement calling for immediate passage of the ROE Act and worked with our legislative allies to move the bill forward. The ROE Act quickly became the dominant narrative of the Massachusetts political world, and our statement led to stories in the Boston Globe, GBH, MassLive, State House News Service, and Commonwealth Magazine.

After the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, Executive Director Rebecca Hart Holder joined Senator Ed Markey at a press conference where she called for immediate passage of the ROE Act and spoke out against Senator Mitch McConnell’s underhanded efforts to confirm a new justice so close to the election.

October

Amy Coney Barrett’s confirmation solidified the Supreme Court’s anti-choice majority. In response, the ROE Act Coalition hosted a rally with Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Ed Markey who called for immediate passage of the ROE Act. Six hundred and twenty-eight people attended the virtual rally.

In partnership with Tipping Point Pennsylvania, our staff and volunteers contacted nearly 5,000 Pennsylvania voters to make sure they had a plan to vote in the Presidential election and to support Joe Biden’s presidential campaign.

October also marked the debut of our “Changemakers for Choice” conversation series. Our first panel, “Out for Choice,” brought together local LGBTQ leaders to discuss the intersection of reproductive freedom and LGBTQ
equality. Co-Editor-in-Chief of The Advocate Tracy Gilchrist moderated the conversation, and panelists included State Senator Julian Cyr, GLAD Executive Director Janson Wu, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition Executive Director Tre’Andre Valentine, and Rebecca Hart Holder.

November

The power of the pro-choice movement was on full display on Election Day. No incumbents who supported the ROE Act lost, and John Cronin, one of our endorsed candidates for State Senate, defeated outspoken anti-abortion legislator Dean Tran, expanding the legislature’s pro-choice majority. These victories were a testament to the efforts of our volunteers and Reproductive Vote Builders, who worked tirelessly and sent out 6,000 postcards ahead of Election Day to get out the vote for reproductive freedom champions.

In a pivotal moment for our Coalition, our allies on Beacon Hill then incorporated key ROE Act provisions into the state budget debate. On November 12th, a veto-proof majority of the House adopted Amendment #759 in its version of the budget. Six days later, a veto-proof majority of the Senate overwhelmingly voted to adopt its own version of the ROE Act, Amendment #180, in its version of the budget. Together, these two amendments allow for abortion care later in pregnancy in cases of a lethal fetal diagnosis, enable 16- and 17-year-olds to make their own decisions about abortion care, streamline the judicial bypass process for those under 16-years of age, and codify the right to safe, legal abortion care into Massachusetts law.

December

On Christmas Eve, Governor Baker vetoed the ROE Act and sent back an amended version that undermined the intent of the bill. The legislature quickly rejected these amendments, setting up one final legislative battle before year’s end. The ROE Act Coalition, legislators, activists, and volunteers rose to the challenge.

Just four days later, the House voted to override Governor Baker’s veto. The very next day, the Senate overwhelmingly voted to override Governor Baker’s veto, enacting the legislature’s ROE Act provisions into law.

It’s fitting that we ended the most tumultuous year in recent memory on a high note. This victory marks the culmination of two years of tireless work by our staff, partners in the ROE Act Coalition, allies in the state legislature, and dedicated activists. We share this victory with all of you, and we are immensely grateful for your continued support of our mission.
## Action Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>major legislative victories: the ROE Act and the Maternal Justice Bill</td>
<td>polls showing overwhelming support for the ROE Act</td>
<td>virtual ROE Act Coalition rallies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>60</th>
<th>76</th>
<th>6,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>volunteer events</td>
<td>members of the ROE Act Coalition</td>
<td>postcards sent during the 2020 election cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11,235</th>
<th>174,824</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>new NARAL MA members</td>
<td>people reached through general election ads</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Endorses

Brandy Fluker Oakley
FOR
State Representative
12th Suffolk District
A Letter from Representative Liz Miranda

It brings me immense joy to share this letter with you as we reflect on the work NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts has been able to accomplish, despite the year we would all like to forget, but never will.

Two thousand and twenty was a year that will go down in history as a series of tragic and consequential events that fundamentally threatened the work of justice and liberation on all fronts, but our work towards reproductive freedom prevailed.

We capped off a two-year fight rife with ups and downs to finally pass the ROE Act and remove many of Massachusetts’ medically unnecessary barriers to care—barriers that disproportionately impacted low-income communities and communities of color. That alone was a historic accomplishment, but neither NARAL MA nor I stopped there. We instead turned our focus to working together to pass an Act to Reduce Racial Inequities in Maternal Health to address the systemic racism in the provision of pregnancy-related health care in Massachusetts. And yes, we won this fight as well.

The work prevailed because you did not give up, because we can walk and chew gum, and because we stand on the shoulders of women like Florynce Kennedy and Byllye Avery.

Understanding the power of Black women, who in our history led reproductive justice movements often in the dark, NARAL built coalitions this past year that centered our leadership and lived experience in the struggle for reproductive justice and freedom.

If the past year has you feeling inspired for the liberation work ahead or exhausted from tireless advocacy yet hopeful, I am calling on you to stay the course—the work ahead requires all of us to join in and fight for each other.

“Freedom is like taking a bath: You gotta keep doing it every day.” – Florynce Kennedy

Despite the world seemingly on fire, I write to say how proud I am of us, of you, and of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts.

Representative Liz Miranda
5th Suffolk District
Developing Future Leaders

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts and the Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation are proud to work with high school, college, and graduate students. Here are three students who made an impact in the reproductive freedom movement in 2020.

Nina Lee

Nina Lee is a senior at Spelman College studying Comparative Women’s Studies with a concentration in reproductive justice. She currently serves as the Presidential Apprentice for the Spelman chapter of Unite for Reproductive Gender Equality (URGE). Nina learned a very important lesson during her time with NARAL MA.

“My internship taught me that to create lasting change is to advocate for better policy (like the ROE Act!) while bridging the gap between our local officials and the communities they serve.”

Emma Mecham

Emma Mecham is a senior at Simmons University studying Political Science and Public Health. During her internship, Emma played an important role in our electoral advocacy by tracking key races and working with our endorsed candidates. Her favorite part of her internship was learning more about the reproductive freedom movement.

“Hearing Kate and the volunteers discuss how they incorporate their faith into their advocacy and attend events put on by other reproductive rights organizations were just some of the things that helped me better understand the nuances of the debates surrounding reproductive rights.”

Maeve Wiesen

Maeve Wiesen is a senior at Brown University majoring in Political Science and Educational Studies. Maeve supported our grassroots organizing and advocacy by creating a field guide for volunteers and researching clinic and provider availability during the beginning of the pandemic. A Lexington native, Maeve appreciated that her internship gave her a chance to make an impact.

“I felt like I was making a tangible difference in the fight for reproductive freedom, and especially abortion access, in Massachusetts.”
Despite many challenges, 2020 was a banner year for NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts and for reproductive freedom in the Commonwealth. But we cannot rest on our laurels because abortion access is still under grave threat nationally. In 2021, we will:

- Support the implementation of the ROE Act.
- Address issues associated with implementing the 2017 ACCESS law guaranteeing access to birth control in the Commonwealth.
- Expand the pro-choice majority in both chambers of the state legislature.
- Work with reproductive justice advocates to end racial inequities in maternal health in Massachusetts.
- Fight back against efforts to overturn or undermine Roe v. Wade.

The critical work of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts and the Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation would not be possible without your activism and support. Here are a few ways to help us move the mission forward in 2021!

Join Us

Mail a check or give online at prochoicemass.org
Become a monthly supporter
Give the gift of stock
Sign up to volunteer
Our Mission

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 person 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 affect political change.

The Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation is the research and education arm of our movement. The Foundation works in the areas of consumer research, public policy, public education, and leadership development to complement the advocacy work 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 to state and local offices by providing financial and in-kind campaign contributions to endorsed candidates.

The NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts PAC was founded in 1981. Donations to any PAC are not tax deductible.
Board and Staff Leadership

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts Board

Sydney Asbury, Chair
Alyssa Vangeli, Vice Chair
Susan Webber, Treasurer
Thaleia Tsongas Schlesinger, Clerk
Jo Blum
Kate Chang
Maydad Cohen
Claire Cooper
Gary Daffin
FayeRuth Fisher
Jay Gonzalez
Clare Kelly
Karen Charles Peterson
Paul Pezzella
June Rowe
Hillary Schwab

Pro-Choice Massachusetts Foundation Board

Lisa Pedulla, Co-Chair
Lisa Reilly, Co-Chair
Jane Piercy, Treasurer
Kimberly Haskins, Clerk
Tania Del Rio
Talia Herman, MD
Aaron Hoffman, MD
Trina Moore
John Page
Andrea Richmond

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts PAC Board

Kate Chang, Co-Chair
Kristine Glynn, Co-Chair
Cynthia Oldfield
Evan Rauch
Cara Berg Powers
Nicole Roos
June Rowe

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts Staff

Rebecca Hart Holder
Executive Director

Gena Frank
Legislative and Political Director

Danielle McCourt
Development Consultant

Jon Latino
Communications Officer

Kate Froehlich
Membership and Organizing Manager

Sarah Chin
Development and Operations Coordinator