



Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri

2023 Legislative Agenda

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Who We Are

Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri (Advocates of PPSLRSWMO) is the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri (PPSLRSWMO), which operates nine health centers across Missouri and Illinois. Before the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated the federal constitutional right to abortion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Reproductive Health Services of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region was the only remaining abortion provider in Missouri. In this post-*Roe* reality, we are focused on rebuilding abortion access with an eye towards patient equity, justice, and evidence-based care. We know this will take years of work and the willingness to accept short-term losses in exchange for long-term powerbuilding and meaningful change.

Our Legislative Priorities — What We Want to See

We acknowledge the reality that to build a future where patients can access comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, we must first create the conditions in which voters feel empowered and energized to change the face of power. Coming off of the 2022 midterm elections, we saw voter backlash against the anti-abortion agenda — electing reproductive rights champions in Missouri and across the country. Abortion won on the ballot, and now we want to use legislation to drive culture change. Missourians are hungry for champions to step up and rebuild access to basic health care wrongly taken by anti-abortion politicians. We know this is a winning agenda.

- Advocates of PPSLRSWMO ***will*** support legislation that enables and expands meaningful access to sexual and reproductive health care, including legislation that:
 - Repeals laws criminalizing and burdening abortion access
 - Reinstates Medicaid coverage for Missourians who rely on Planned Parenthood for health care
 - Reduces Missouri's dire maternal mortality rates, especially Black maternal mortality
 - Expands and protects access to birth control, including emergency contraception, sterilization, and long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs)
 - Strengthens medically accurate sexual health education for Missouri students

- Ensures patients can obtain health care regardless of their gender and racial identities, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and health care choices
- Advocates of PPSLRSWMO will ***not*** support and/or will oppose legislation that:
 - Puts political gain over people and patients
 - Punishes patients, and their support networks and providers, for their health care decisions
 - Does not affirmatively enable and expand meaningful access to sexual and reproductive health care
 - Compromises or burdens sexual and reproductive health care access
 - Focuses on medical emergency exceptions and carve-outs from abortion bans and restrictions rather than restoration of access, including, but not limited to, rape and incest exceptions
 - Interferes with the provider–patient relationship
 - Discriminates against patients based on their gender and racial identities, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and health care choices
 - Shames, punishes, or misleads patients for accessing any health care
 - Uses taxpayer dollars for anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers

Please lean on Advocates of PPSLRSWMO as a resource for understanding how policies and legislation impact sexual and reproductive health care patients and providers. If you need support, please email Vanessa.Wellbery@ppslr.org, (VP of Policy and Advocacy), Sarah.Felts@ppslr.org (Policy and Political Manager), and/or Julie.Lynn@ppslr.org (Communications Director).