



December 16th, 2019

Dear Christine,

What a year it has been. As we head into the 2020 election year, I want to reflect on the great strides women and femmes made this past year and the hurdles we must continue to overcome.

Nine states passed early abortion bans in 2019, jeopardizing reproductive rights for millions of individuals once these laws go into effect. The #MeToo movement brought national attention in the cases of R Kelly and Jeffrey Epstein. For those of us on the ground, organizing to dismantle white supremacy and patriarchy, there has hardly been a minute to catch our breath and take stock of where we have been and, more importantly, where we are going.

So we invite you to do just that with us now. After all, we're in this fight together.

Support our movement by making a financial contribution that is accessible and significant to you.

Mail your contribution in the enclosed envelope or support our work by donating online:

www.noworegon.org/support.html.

We will apply your donation wisely in our work to eradicate oppressive systems across Oregon. Thank you!

We are proud of what we accomplished together in 2019. Here are a few highlights:

➔ **We Fought for Feminist Policy Priorities in Salem.** NOW members across Oregon advocated in the state legislature, working hard for our priority bills and supporting our feminist partner organizations. Our statewide Legislative Task Force, formed in 2017, is a force to be reckoned with in Salem to prioritize policies in line with NOW values. We participated in coalitions that helped to pass meaningful policies, such as Paid Medical and Family Leave, Driver's Licenses for All, and the Student Success Act. NOW members testified, submitted letters of support, attended lobby days and town hall meetings, and published op-eds and letters to the editor. We know that your calls, emails, and presence at the state capitol made a real difference. We've also continued to share our model student dress code with people in Oregon and across the nation.

➔ **We Hosted the 3rd Oregon NOW Annual Conference.** In 2019, we held our meeting at Portland Community College. The conference featured panels on how racism impacts individuals in the social justice movement and on the unheard voices of women veterans, included outstanding addresses by the Executive Directors of Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, as well as opportunities for NOW members around the state to discuss strategies and make connections. We were also excited to include several women running for office throughout the conference.

➔ **We Welcomed a new Executive Director and new members.** In June, we welcomed Sahar Yarjani Muranovic as our new Executive Director for the state chapter. Sahar is a first-generation immigrant, dedicated to racial, gender, and economic justice. She was also elected this past year to serve on the David

Douglas School Board. Sahar and Board President, Christine Chin Ryan, visited several local chapters to meet with members and local leadership as we prepare for 2020. Our statewide grassroots feminist network proudly has six NOW chapters — five local (including High Desert NOW, Mid-Willamette NOW (Corvallis), South Willamette Valley NOW (Eugene / Springfield), Greater Portland NOW and Central Oregon Coast NOW) and our state chapter — with at least one chapter in every Oregon congressional district! We invite you to connect with your local chapter (find a contact list on our website or email us for information) or, if there's not already one in your area, why not explore forming a chapter where you live? We can help with that, too! It's empowering in these times to partner with other feminists around the state as we work to dismantle the patriarchy and fight for women's reproductive rights and justice.

➔ **We Supported Movements for a More Equitable Future.** The election of 2016 galvanized communities to stand up, show up, and fight back! We were proud to stand with our communities at the Walk with Immigrants and Refugees, National Period Day, the student-led Climate Strike, Lights for Liberty Vigil and showing up to calls for the ending of concentration camps at the border and to mourn the lives of those lost while engaged.

➔ **We Worked to Make our Organization More Inclusive and Equitable.** Our state chapter has been proud to have a young immigrant woman of color serving as the Executive Director. We have also welcomed new Board members that are representative of our beautiful community. Oregon NOW is in it for the long haul to fight for women and femmes, our queer and trans community, immigrants and refugees, our disabled and differently abled community, and Black, Indigenous and people of color.

Are you ready to keep the pressure on in 2020? We are!

There is clearly no time to rest with all that is going on these days, so let's keep the pressure on in 2020!

Your feminist voice and commitment to take action is key to making the changes we are ready to see in our society. **Oregon NOW *also* needs your financial support, so we can continue to coordinate the growing grassroots feminist movement in Oregon.** One thing is certain: we are more powerful when we work together. One of our most important jobs at the state NOW chapter is supporting local chapters and connecting members to make the greatest impact. Your financial support ensures that we can do that essential work well.

Our annual budget is relatively small, so every single donation, no matter the size, is important and valued. Please consider returning the enclosed envelope with a donation or contribute online at www.noworegon.org/support.html.

Thank you for supporting our work. Together, we can — and will — smash the patriarchy!



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