



Cornell University

Cornell Health

110 Ho Plaza
Ithaca, New York 14853-3101
t. 607.255.5155
f. 607.255.0269
health.cornell.edu

**Mathew Kleiner “Create Change: Health Leadership Award” 2022 Awardee:
Helena Brittain ’22**

Cornell Health is pleased to announce Helena Brittain ’22 as a 2022 recipient of the “Create Change: Health Leadership Award.”

Helena was nominated for the award for her noteworthy contributions to social activism in the reproductive justice movement through her work with Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA). As co-president of Cornell’s PPGA group, Helena has been involved in a variety of important reproductive justice initiatives on campus, and to support organizations in Texas.

With Helena’s leadership, PPGA organized a fundraiser to raise \$2,000 for organizations in Texas that provide much-needed reproductive health services after the Supreme Court’s Fall 2021 ruling allowed the Texas laws limiting abortion to stand. Along with a bake sale, PPGA also sold women-centric sex toys to make a statement about keeping women’s sexual health at the center of the effort.

To support those in Texas directly impacted by the ruling, Helena also co-sponsored a Student Assembly resolution in September 2021. Resolution 23: Support for Reproductive Rights called upon the university to invest more effort in educating the student body on birth control and reproductive services, and stood in solidarity with the approximately 700 undergraduate and graduate students from Texas who may be directly or indirectly impacted by the Supreme Court ruling.

In October 2021, Helena and the PPGA organized a rally for reproductive rights with local Assembly member Anna Kelles, Professor Zillah Eisenstein from Ithaca College, and Laura Lewis from the Ithaca Common Council. Additionally, with Helena’s leadership, PPGA has been very active in providing safer sex materials to students, providing Free Condom Fridays on Ho Plaza, and organizing open PPGA meetings with faculty and staff guest speakers.

While Helena has prioritized reproductive rights for women as a key social issue on Cornell’s campus, she has also been involved in other social justice issues including sexual violence prevention, immigrant rights in the U.S., and the global climate crisis. As the nominators for Helena added: *Connecting what is happening on the national level (Supreme Court rulings) with the students’ own personal experiences and values contributes to critical awareness and forges the relationship between the personal and political.*