

**Submitted Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Connecticut  
On Governor's Bill 830  
An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations Regarding Education  
Monday, March 9, 2009  
Education Committee**

Planned Parenthood of Connecticut is the largest provider of family planning and reproductive health care in Connecticut. We care for nearly 65,000 patients annually (most of them young women, some of them still in high school). We offer education and training to teachers, parents and others who work with young people on health and prevention issues.

It is our understanding that the language of this bill would reduce the per meal reimbursement for those schools that certify as healthy schools (under the school nutrition/junk food legislation passed several years ago) from 10 cents per meal to 5 cents.

Particularly at this painful moment in our nation's history, we know that patients are coming to Planned Parenthood in need of health care they cannot afford to pay for and may have lost insurance coverage. Similarly, we know that many of those families are struggling mightily to keep food on their tables. Often, they will not succeed, since the price of food is only increasing. School meals are a vital way of keeping kids (if not entire families) from being hungry. School meals help kids in need to think and perform better in the classroom. State support enables our public schools to continue to feed those children who most need this nutritional support.

No child should be hungry, at school or at home. Planned Parenthood of Connecticut would like to add its voice to those requesting that this proposal be rejected, and other means of balancing the State budget be explored. Thank you.