

Dear Senators Moore and Logan, Representatives Abercrombie and Case and members of the Human Services Committee:

I write in support of SB 274, An Act Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood And Other Planning Clinics.

The change of Title X funding is a direct attack upon comprehensive reproductive health care. Through federal family planning funding, **Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) serves more than 41,000 patients who are eligible for free or low-cost services.** They are not the only health center that has been impacted by the domestic "gag" rule. This rule impacts any health care provider who participates in the Title X program, including community health centers like Fair Haven Community Health Center who was a sub-grantee of PPSNE and hospitals.

Defunding these centers has a direct impact on our low income residents who do not have other choices for preventive care and family planning. Planned Parenthood gives women choices in family planning that, I believe, prevent more abortions than are performed.

Connecticut has the opportunity to stand up against the Trump/Pence Administration's egregious changes to Title X funding- **and we need your help to ensure Connecticut residents can continue to access these necessary reproductive health care services.** Health care is a human right, and all people need and deserve equal access to sexual and reproductive health care. Without the Title X program, many patients will lose access to free or low-cost basic care like birth control, STI/STD testing, and cancer screenings.

I urge you to support access to health care by passing SB 274, An Act Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood And Other Planning Clinics. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Bellamy

11 Sunset Dr

Ashford, CT 06278