

Dear Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Wildaliz Bermúdez. I am a Councilwoman for the City of Hartford, and I write to you in support of SB 274: *An Act Concerning Increased Funding To Planned Parenthood And Other Family Planning Clinics* which will provide critical funding for continued access to preventive reproductive health care for the people of Connecticut who already struggle to get the care they need.

I fight for Planned Parenthood as both a woman of color that has depended on Planned Parenthood's accessible care and as an elected official in a city that has no shortage of healthcare institutions, but a true shortage of healthcare access for many women. The way that the federal government has treated planned parenthood has been a reckless and cruel disgrace. For many of the women that I represent, Planned Parenthood is often the only affordable provider that meets their needs.

Although I am an advocate for universal healthcare across the board, one of the areas in which it is absolutely indispensable is in women's reproductive health. The societal barriers that women have to overcome in our society are only worsened when our health is also treated as a commodity. The women of Hartford, as well as the women of all of Connecticut and the world, deserve the opportunity to live full lives, free from the anxiety, stress, and depression that comes with being unable to access basic care like birth control, cancer screenings, and STI/STD testing.

Planned Parenthood benefits the lives of millions of people of all genders, but once we understand the full extent to which women in particular depend on Planned Parenthood, we understand that any attack on Planned Parenthood is an attack on women; especially poor and working class women. Any failure to fund Planned Parenthood is a failure to fund the futures of women and girls across our state and country. It is a shame that Connecticut must once again pick up the slack of our federal government, but we must be willing to do the right thing for our communities. Thank you for your time, and thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,
Hartford City Councilwoman Wildaliz Bermúdez