

March 4, 2020

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on an important subject – the appropriation of CT tax dollars to a morally objectionable cause.

I write in **strong opposition to SB 274, An Act Concerning funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics**, based on the moral implications of providing public funding to a business whose core mission is to kill unborn human babies.

A quick review of the many bills being considered in the various legislative committees this session shows clear evidence that our representatives and senators are actively looking out for the welfare of most vulnerable constituents. We have bills that address special ed. and other educational needs for our children, their school security and bullying problems, and discrimination based on hair styles. There are others dealing with long term care needs for our senior citizens, how to resolve the opioid and suicide epidemics for our young adults, and how to improve the occupational opportunities for our lower-income working adults, and many more. We have bills aiming to improve the DCF's operating procedures, and seeking to protect our school children from preventable diseases by closing loopholes in the vaccination requirements. These evidence a purposeful intent to improve the health and safety of the various populations within our community that need help the most.

So, then, if we have such benevolent intentions, especially toward the most vulnerable segments of our population, why are we considering legislation that would take millions of our tax dollars and provide them to a business (a FOR-PROFIT business) whose self-proclaimed core mission is abortion (the killing of the most vulnerable and helpless segment of society)?

I understand that these Title X funds are supposed to be used only to fund Title X services. I am very concerned, however, as the Federal Government was too, that when these funds are provided to a business that also performs abortions, these funds serve to subsidize the business and therefore indirectly fund abortion services. In agreement with the Federal Government's decision, I strongly object to any of my tax dollars being used in this morally objectionable way.

There are numerous alternatives that our state could pursue that would help women in need without providing public funds to objectionable organizations. There are crisis pregnancy centers around the state that provide many of the same services to needy mothers (and fathers) in a loving and caring environment without any of the ties to an abortion provider. These could certainly benefit from some public grants. There are many other programs and services provided via non-profits and other organizations that help newborns and expectant mothers that would benefit from increased public funding, if the state has dollars they are looking to invest in a worthy cause. This Title X funding to Planned Parenthood should be dropped (indeed Planned Parenthood voluntarily dropped it rather than deviating from their core mission of abortion services).

Please kill this bill in committee. I do not want my tax dollars used to subsidize the abortion industry in any way.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

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