

Amanda Carrington

Written testimony in support of S.B. 274 *An Act Concerning Increased Funding To Planned Parenthood And Other Family Planning Clinics*

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

My name is Amanda Carrington, and I am from Bloomfield. I am student at the UConn School of Social Work, and advocate at the YWCA New Britain Sexual Assault Crisis Service. I am testifying in support of raised S.B. 274 *An Act Concerning Increased Funding To Planned Parenthood And Other Family Planning Clinics*. This bill seeks to provide critical funding for continued access to preventive reproductive health care for low-income Connecticut communities.

I have relied on the healthcare provided by Planned Parenthood throughout my life. This includes a period in which I was both uninsured, and unemployed. I went to Planned Parenthood because I knew that, regardless of my financial situation, I would be able to receive comprehensive care. I also knew that I would not be treated unfairly because of my insurance and employment status. Having access to Planned Parenthood's services during this time ensured my positive health and well-being. All people deserve access to this care. Healthcare is a human right and should never depend on one's finances.

Title X is the only federal program dedicated to preventive health care including wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. This program has received bipartisan support from Congress since its inception until now. Planned Parenthood plays an indispensable role in providing family planning care in Connecticut. In 2018, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England serviced over 41,000 Title X patients at 11 health centers in Connecticut. This accounts for 88% of those served by Title X in the state. The Title X program fights health care inequity by serving populations that have historically faced significant barriers to care, including people of color, people of low income, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants and people living in rural areas.

I am thankful that Governor Lamont, and other elected leaders, support family planning funding in the budget. I strongly support raised S.B. 274. I urge the committee and legislature to vote favorably to support funding for family planning providers, and protect access to sexual and reproductive health care for those most in need in our state.

Thank you,  
Amanda Carrington  
50 Mountain Ave,  
Bloomfield, CT, 06002