

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

My name is Debra Cohen. I am from Wethersfield.

I am writing in support of raised S.B. 274 An Act Concerning Increased Funding to Planned Parenthood and Other Family 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 am 68 years old, retired with limited but adequate funds, insured under Medicare and an affordable supplemental plan that allow me to access any medical care that I currently need. But I clearly remember a time in my life when this picture of security was not mine. I relied on Planned Parenthood for wellness checks and contraceptives. Had Planned Parenthood not been available to me I would have had no medical care options nor the ability to take control of my own family planning.

I believe that quality and affordable health care is a human right and that it is my responsibility to fight for the success of organizations such as Planned Parenthood that are dedicated to making equal access available to anyone in need. If Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics are denied the necessary funds to continue their work, women with limited funds will be forced to forego checkups and care that might literally save their lives. Generous funding says that we value the lives of ALL women in various stages of life. Denying funding says that women are disposable. To be sure, we are not!

Thank you to our elected officials who are committed to supporting women in this most fundamental way by seeing to it that Planned Parenthood remains a quality source of care across the feminine medical spectrum. I strongly support raised S.B 274 and look forward to seeing its success. It is my hope that women will continue to access to the same programs that were vital to me.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Cohen