

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

My name is Sabina Dirienzo from Stamford CT. I am a proud supporter of Planned Parenthood and have relied on their healthcare services since I was in high school.

I am writing in support of raised S.B. 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.

When we were sophomores in high school, my best friend, a transgender man, was raped. Planned Parenthood provided him with the STI and pregnancy testing he needed. Without Planned Parenthood, we would not have known that he had not contracted an STI and was not pregnant.

Planned Parenthood's MANY services for women and men and access to affordable birth control and cancer screenings are essential for Connecticut residents. All people need and deserve equal access to comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, because health care is a human right.

Title X is the only federal program dedicated to affordable family planning and preventive health care including wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, birth control, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. Planned Parenthood needs this critical funding in Connecticut.

Planned Parenthood plays an indispensable role in providing family planning care in Connecticut. In 2018, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England over 41,000 Title X patients at 11 health centers in Connecticut, accounting for 88% of those served by Title X in the state.

- 54% of patients identify as people of color – 23% are Black or African-American and 23% are Latino/a/x

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.

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 strongly support S.B. 274 and urge the committee and the legislature to vote favorably to support funding for family planning providers, including Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, and protect access to sexual and reproductive health care for those most in need in our state.

Thank you for your time,

Sabina Dirienzo 140 Hoyt St Apt 2J Stamford, CT