

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

My name is Krista Dotzel and I am from Willimantic. I am a Graduate Assistant at UConn and a member of the GEU UAW Local 6950.

I am testifying 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.

This issue is important to me because I have personally benefitted from Planned Parenthood's health centers. Planned Parenthood has been there to provide me with convenient and affordable birth control in the past and the organization has continued to provide me with information and resources as my partner and I seek to start a family. As a graduate assistant, I don't earn a very high salary and Title X funding at Planned Parenthood has helped arm me with the tools I need to make important life decisions, something I wish for all women in this country. Knowing that Planned Parenthood is there to provide resources and help me navigate big decisions is a burden off my shoulders.

As Title X funding has helped provide me with convenient and affordable access to birth control, I want to make sure that other women in the state of Connecticut receive the same benefits that I have received. Without Title X funding, women across the state will lose access not only to affordable birth control, but also cancer screenings and STI testing. Title X is the only federal program dedicated to funding these crucial health services, and this program has helped serve populations that have historically faced barriers to health care. These services benefit not just women, but strengthen our entire communities. Recognizing this, the Title X program has received bipartisan support from Congress since its inception until now, and I ask you to support this program today.

I want to thank Governor Lamont and our legislators for supporting Title X in the past as well as their commitment to protecting women's health care. I ask that the committee and the legislature continue this support and vote to approve raised S.B. 274, a vote to protect funding for family planning providers such as Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. Support such as this helps keep our communities strong and healthy.

Thank you for your time,

Krista Dotzel
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