



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE JILLIAN GILCHREST**  
18TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Human Services Committee  
Public Hearing  
Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

**Support: SB 274, AA Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics**

Senators Moore & Logan, Representatives Abercrombie & Case, and members of the Human Services Committee, I am Jillian Gilchrest and I represent the 18th district of West Hartford. I ask for your support of SB 274, AA Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics.

Patients should have access to healthcare free from religious or personal ideology. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) Health Centers in CT serve more than 41,000 Title X patients with contraceptive care, cancer screening, and screening for sexually transmitted diseases. PPSNE received \$2.1 million a year in federal Title X to provide these services before ending participating on July 15. The Trump/Pence gag rule prohibits providers from providing medically accurate information. This rule prohibits anyone receiving Title X funding from telling patients how and where to access abortion which in turn forces healthcare providers to lie and mislead patients about their care. This is not only unethical, but it also harms patients seeking medical services and advice. Therefore, Planned Parenthoods across the country chose to opt out of the Title X program.

Connecticut has an opportunity to make things right for patients who seek medical services in our state by funding Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) and other family planning clinics. The Governor has proposed to provide \$1.2 million in funding in order to compensate for this loss. PPSNE is requesting that the funding be raised to \$2.1 million in order to match the lost Title X funding and to ensure the best care to any patient that walks through their doors.

Having access to adequate healthcare is a basic human right, no matter your age, gender, or income. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England and other family planning clinics in Connecticut have put their patients first. Now, it is our responsibility to do the same. We need to help Connecticut residents continue to have access to medically accurate, affordable healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jillian Gilchrest

State Representative, 18<sup>th</sup> District



Christine Conley

State Representative, 40<sup>th</sup> District