

Support for 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 Lauren Gray from Norwalk, CT. I am a proud supporter of Planned Parenthood and have relied on their healthcare services since I was 16 years old.

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.

I've been a patient at Planned Parenthood health centers in North Carolina, Georgia and here in Connecticut. Their preventative services and health care services have been crucial to my overall wellbeing. When I was 20 years old, thanks to my annual check-up at Planned Parenthood, they caught abnormal cells on my cervix early. Thankfully, they were able to help me resolve this issue and I've had normal pap smears ever since. Without the education of Planned Parenthood, I would not have caught this problem and things could have gone in a very different direction.

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.

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,

Lauren Gray
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