

Dear members of the Human Services Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 274 an act concerning funding for Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics. The Title X Family Planning Program was enacted under Republican President Richard Nixon in 1970 as part of the Public Health Service Act and is solely dedicated to providing family planning services to low-income families or uninsured people (including those who are not eligible for Medicaid) who might not otherwise have access to these health care services. According to the Guttmacher Institute publicly funded family planning services like Title X helped women across the nation avoid 1.94 million unintended pregnancies, thus preventing about 860,000 unintended births and 810,000 abortions. Without Title X the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions would be nearly two-thirds higher among women overall and among teens the number of unintended pregnancies among poor women would nearly double. These Title X funded clinics saved the federal and state governments an estimated \$5.1 billion in 2008 in short term medical costs. Nationally, every \$1.00 invested in helping women avoid unintended pregnancy saved \$3.74 in Medicaid expenditures that otherwise would have been needed. This is all being put into jeopardy by Donald Trump's short sighted and moronic attempt to throw red meat to the white evangelical crowd. But what can you expect from a man who lost a billion dollars of his father's money in a decade, filed for bankruptcy more than five times, and is on the black list of every major American bank? There are 41,000 people in the state of Connecticut who rely on Title X funding to get their reproductive healthcare and they do not deserve to have their healthcare held hostage by some narcissistic demagogue try to show off to people whose so called deeply held religious beliefs are not rooted in religion at all but [white nativism](#), misogyny, and anger at the government telling them that they can't discriminate against people of color. I for one applaud Governor Lamont for putting his money where his mouth is by ensuring no Title X funded healthcare centers will be closing on his watch. Please vote yes on his budget recommendation.

Thank you for your time,
Leanne Harpin