

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

My name is Genesis Infantas, I am from Simsbury, and I am an Intern for Planned Parenthood Votes! Connecticut. 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.

I began going to Planned Parenthood when I started college three years ago and continue to visit them today. I needed a way to gain access to birth control with people I can trust and who I know would support this decision of mine. Being 17 at the time, my only protected and confidential way of doing so was Planned Parenthood. However, coming from a low-income household this is something I could not have afforded without outside help, just like so many others in this country. Whenever I go to any Planned Parenthood location, I feel no shame or fear because I know that everyone there is on my side and is there to help me without judgement.

Having access to not only birth control, but STI/STD screenings are very important because there are thousands of people who would not have access to these without Title X. Many of these people are those who are of low-income, people of color, and immigrants. By taking this away from these people would be placing yet another barrier in their lives which they definitely do not need. Being low-income, Latinx, and coming from immigrant parents, I can feel the hardship that others in these roles may feel.

Since the “Gag Rule” prohibits those receiving Title X funds from telling patients any information regarding abortions, this results in medical professionals to outright lie and withhold information that could potentially help someone receive the care they wish to receive. Therefore, It would be unethical to keep this information from a patient who deserves to know all of their options before bringing a new life into this world.

Thank you to Governor Lamont and elected leaders for supporting this bill and the help it will bring countless people. I strongly support raised S.B. 274 and hope the committee and legislature vote in favor to support funding for family planning providers like Planned Parenthood of Southern New England so those who need this aid can receive it as they would like to.

Thank you for your time,
Genesis Infantas
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