

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

My name is Theresa Laue. I am from New Haven. I am a patient and proud employee of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE).

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 was a patient at PPSNE before I was an employee. PPSNE provided me with affordable birth control while I was in the process of leaving my ex-husband, with whom I did NOT want another child. They provided me with options and with no judgments.

As an employee, I interact daily with patients who rely on PPSNE for cancer screenings, birth control, and STI testing. Without the Title X program, many of our patients will lose access to these basic services that are currently free or low-cost for them. Without the Title X program, so many of our patients would not be able to afford these very necessary (and sometimes life-saving) services. PPSNE has been part of Title X for almost 50 years — until being forced out last August. Our patients depend on us for the services Title X allows us to provide. All people deserve equal access to comprehensive health care. Health care is a human right.

Thank you to Governor Lamont and elected leaders for supporting family planning funding in the budget and continuing our state's strong commitment to protecting and improving reproductive health care. I strongly support raised S.B. 274 and urge the committee and 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,

Theresa Laue
New Haven, CT