

[SB 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 Erin Livensparger, I am from Portland. I am a mom, a wife, a daughter, a health care worker at Planned Parenthood, a trained doula, an herbalist, a friend, and I use the pronouns she, her, and hers.

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.

This issue has not only been my life's work, but I have been a patient at Planned Parenthood for over 15 years. I have used birth control from Planned Parenthood before I had children and I use birth control from Planned Parenthood now that I am done having children. Planned Parenthood offered me education and information to stay healthy before getting pregnant and when I was trying to get pregnant. I also work at Planned Parenthood and participate in the life saving services. I have held space for some many people's stories and situations. I have helped a young woman get to an Emergency Room because she was assaulted and came to Planned Parenthood first because going to the ER alone was too scary. I have helped an almost 40-year-old woman get the breast ultrasound she needed to detect early cancer. I have delivered positive HIV results and helped patients get connected with programs like AIDS CT and Alliance for Living. I have also delivered training to teachers, medical professionals, and DCF staff all across CT as a sexuality educator and trainer. Publicly funded reproductive health care and comprehensive sexuality education saves lives of those most vulnerable. It protects the citizens of CT that may not have the means to access this care without assistance. It protects teens who are learning about their bodies, consent, and sexuality. Publicly funded reproductive health care from Planned Parenthood helps decrease the health disparities between Black and White people in the state saving Black women's lives.

I can't stress enough how I know first-hand that people need and deserve equal access to comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, because health care is a human right. The Title X program fights health care inequity by serving populations that have historically faced significant barriers to care, including people of color, people of low income, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants and people living in rural areas.

Please support Planned Parenthood by continuing our state's strong commitment to protecting and improving women's 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,

Erin Livensparger
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