

Connecticut General Assembly
SENATE DEMOCRATS

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

March 5, 2020

Good morning Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee. We are submitting testimony in strong support of for SB 274: An Act Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics to counter the loss of federal Title X funding.

For thousands of Connecticut residents at the margins who struggle to make ends meet, Title X providers often serve as their only source of health care. This federal funding provides approximately 50,000 CT residents with vital services such as life-saving cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy tests, education and counseling services and birth control – all for free or at reduced cost. The National Family Planning Organization estimates that Title X Funds in CT annually help to prevent thousands of unintended pregnancies, help to prevent multiple cervical cancer cases, and help to prevent hundreds of sexually transmitted diseases. The Guttmacher Institute estimates that for every dollar invested in family planning, we save \$7.09.

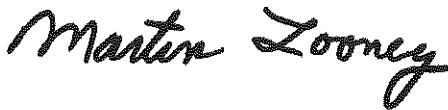
In 2019, the US Department of Health and Human Services reported that two organizations in Connecticut received \$2.4 million in Title X funding: Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc., which operates 12 health clinics throughout the state. This funding provides health care services for some of our most economically vulnerable populations, including health care services for approximately 15,000 women under the age of 25; for approximately 16,000 patients who make less than \$12,060 a year; and for more than 20,000 patients who make between \$12,060 - \$30,150 annually.

We seek to join our colleagues in Hawaii, Illinois, Oregon, Maryland, Vermont, Washington, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, and New York City who have or who are planning to step-up to replace the loss of federal funds.

We support this bill and stand in support of Planned Parenthood and all our family planning clinics in order to ensure that they are able to maintain their hours, pay their staff, maintain access to vital, life-saving health care services, keep contraceptives in stock, and continue their vital outreach and educational services that have been supported for decades by Title X funds.

We strongly support this legislation because we believe that all people in Connecticut, regardless of their financial circumstances, deserve a medically accurate and comprehensive, inclusive approach to family planning and reproductive health care.

Sincerely,



Martin M. Looney
Senate President Pro Tempore
State Senator 11th District



Bob Duff
Senate Majority Leader
State Senator 25th District



Mary Daugherty Abrams
State Senator 13th District



Saud Anwar
State Senator 3rd District



Steve Cassano
State Senator 4th District



Christine Cohen
State Senator 12th District

Will Haskell

Will Haskell
State Senator 26th District

James Maroney

James Maroney
State Senator 14th District

Marilyn Moore

Marilyn M. Moore
State Senator 22nd District

Norm Needleman

Norm Needleman
State Senator 33rd District