

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

My name is Anastasia Martineau, I am from Willimantic, and I am the UConn Intern Supervisor 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 reproductive health care for the people of Connecticut.

I want you to imagine the following scenario. You've just turned eighteen. You come from a low income family and you're trying to figure out how to pay for college. You've just realized you're queer. Once a month, you miss three days of school because your periods are so severe that you genuinely cannot function. You have recently experienced trauma and now you are terrified to go to the doctor because you don't know who to trust, but you medically need birth control.

This was my situation when I entered my local Planned Parenthood health center for the first time in 2016. I now know that it was the best decision I have ever made for myself. When I walked in, I was welcomed by an amazing staff who were open to all of my needs. They helped me to fill out forms, walked me through all of my options for birth control, and made sure that I was able to afford it. Any questions they asked me around my sexual health were completely gender neutral, so I knew that I could trust them with my whole self and sexual history.

Access to affordable birth control and the quality of care that I received at Planned Parenthood truly turned my life around. I was able to drastically improve in academics coming into college because I no longer had to miss school due to pain, and I actually felt in control of my own body for the first time in my entire life. Although I would have lapses in insurance coverage in the future, I was always able to go to Planned Parenthood and get what I needed, no matter what. This was because of funding available through Title X.

When Planned Parenthood was forced out of the Title X program because of the Gag Rule, I was devastated. Not only was I concerned for myself, but also for the 41,000 other patients in Connecticut that used Title X funding to obtain comprehensive, inclusive, and professional care from Planned Parenthood. Many of these patients are people of color, people of low income, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants and people living in rural areas. In my role as the UConn Intern Supervisor for Planned Parenthood Votes! Connecticut, I have worked with many of these patients who relied on Title X funding to access our services, and I know what a big difference it made in their lives. Connecticut residents deserve full access to reproductive health care as a basic human right, but Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics need the funding proposed by this bill in order to continue to make that happen.

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. I greatly appreciate Governor Lamont and elected leaders for supporting family planning funding in the budget, and I know that you will all continue to uphold Connecticut's dedication to protecting and improving reproductive health care for all.

Thank you for your time,  
Anastasia Martineau  
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