



In support of *S.B. 274—An Act Concerning Increased Funding To Planned Parenthood And Other Family Planning Clinics*

Submitted by Jordan McMillan | March 3, 2020

My name is Jordan McMillan, and I live in New Haven, CT. I am the president of GEU-UAW Local 6950, the Graduate Employees at the University of 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 would provide funding that will allow Planned Parenthood to continue providing essential preventive reproductive health care for the people of Connecticut who already struggle to get the care they need.

I personally receive necessary health care from Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE). I experience compassionate, comprehensive care from a trusted clinician; care that I was not receiving prior to my first visit to Planned Parenthood. Beyond my personal experience, I support SB 274 because health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, is a human right.

PPSNE plays an essential role in providing health care in Connecticut, most especially family planning care. Planned Parenthood is one of the only providers in the state where people without health insurance can obtain health care like cancer screenings and birth control. With 54% of patients identifying as people of color, and 64% of patients being at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, PPSNE plays a vital role in racial and economic justice in Connecticut.

Title X is the only federal program dedicated to affordable family planning and preventive health care, including wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. Without this program, many patients across Connecticut will lose access to the low-cost healthcare they depend on.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England had been in the Title X program since it was created nearly 50 years ago, until being forced out in August 2019, when the Trump-Pence administration implemented a new set of rules, known as the domestic “Gag Rule,” on Title X providers. The rule prohibits anyone receiving Title X funds from telling patients how and where to access abortion. Essentially, it forces health care providers to lie and mislead patients about their care. This harmful practice eliminates the guarantee that pregnant patients maintain bodily autonomy and receive factual counseling on all their legal health care options.

Because of this dangerous and unethical “gag rule,” Planned Parenthood no longer participates in the Title X program, choosing to stand by their slogan, “Care. No matter what.” PPSNE is still committed to providing ALL care, and have not had to change their service structure or sliding fee scale. In the long term, they must replace the Title X funds to continue their mission. I urge the state to support adding \$1.2 Million to the DPH budget so PPSNE can continue to provide care, no matter what.

Providing affordable health care is not radical and it is not political—it is just and humane. 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 the 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. Many things in our society are not working. Planned Parenthood is working.

Sincerely,
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