

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is BriAnna Nixie, and I am a junior at the University of Connecticut. I am a Generation Action intern with Planned Parenthood Votes! Connecticut. And for years, I have been a patient of Planned Parenthood Southern New England. I live in Glastonbury, Connecticut, and I am a constituent of Representative Jill Barry and Senator Steve Cassano. I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 274: *An Act Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics*. This bill would allocate state funding to offset the loss of federal funds for family planning clinics.

I have been an advocate for publicly funded reproductive healthcare since I became a patient at Planned Parenthood. After growing up struggling with my sexuality and self-advocacy, I did not know who I could trust in healthcare. LGBTQ+ people have historically faced significant barriers to care. As a queer young woman in high school, I needed birth control but did not have insurance to use. I am beyond glad I made the choice to go to Planned Parenthood. Their staff has always provided me with comprehensive and inclusive care, regardless of my orientation or my financial situation. Thanks to Planned Parenthood's sliding scale fee program, made possible by Title X, I have been able to access these services without facing any barriers. This exceptional quality of care, and its *accessibility and affordability*, is why I now go to Planned Parenthood for even my primary care.

It is important to both acknowledge and understand healthcare as a human right. No pregnant patient deserves inaccurate, unhelpful, or nondirective counseling on their healthcare options. Without the Title X program, many patients like myself will lose access to low-cost or free basic care. No patient deserves to lose access to their healthcare.

SB 274 will do so much good for our state, its residents, and patients like me. Title X is the only federal program dedicated to affordable family planning and preventive health care. This bill will support family planning funding in the state budget and further commit Connecticut to protecting and improving women's healthcare.

I want to reiterate my support for SB 274. Passing this bill forward will benefit patients and families all across Connecticut. Let's work together to fund Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics in our state.

Thank you for your time,
BriAnna Nixie (she/her/hers)
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