

**Testimony of Michelle Noehren
Before the Human Services Committee
March 5, 2020**

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 274, AAC Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics and HB 5306, AAC Temporary State Services for Victims of Domestic Violence.

SB 274, AAC Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics

With support for important organizations such as Planned Parenthood unstable on the national level, I applaud the committee for taking measures to ensure that Connecticut citizens will continue to have access to healthcare services if they lose funding. Access to reproductive health care such as annual pelvic exams, birth control, STD testing, and PEP/PrEP should not be at risk for the thousands of people in Connecticut who need these services each year.

HB 5306, AAC Temporary State Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

This bill would require the Department of Social Services to expedite supplemental nutrition assistance program eligibility determinations for a victim of domestic violence. I support this legislation for many reasons including the fact that the period of time following a domestic violence victim leaving his or her abusive partner is incredibly dangerous and stressful. Having to wait for nutritional assistance adds another challenging layer to an already traumatic situation. Thank you for your continued commitment to helping victims of domestic violence get the support they so desperately need.