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Human Services Committee,

Careful Allocation of Budget

I'm requesting that the Committee reject SB 274 because we already have scarce taxpayer funds squeezing families and businesses out of states, forcing cuts to local school districts, transportation needs, and certainly human services needs under the oversight of this committee. If any additional funds should be allocated, I would suggest reducing maternal mortality or for hospice care, both areas where Connecticut sadly lags far beyond the rest of the nation. When was the last time Connecticut supported abortion alternatives -perhaps subsidies for adoption agencies to balance off the state's support of PPSNE?

Alternatives

Recent healthcare delivery models to low income residents further suggest rejection to this bill. The Affordable Care Act helped create 12 adult, and dozens more federally – backed community health clinics throughout the state. These provide many services for women, men, and children across the state who need it, including for services that Planned Parenthood currently provides. PPSNE already receives several line items in state funding, and it is not necessary to duplicate services already provided by Community Health Clinics.

Generally, government should only financially support services that cannot be otherwise obtained by the private sector or charities. The market should provide stronger, more efficient models of delivery than those provided by government subsidies. We've seen government propping up the financial and auto industries with mixed results, often to the detriment of smaller alternatives. The ACA's creation of Community Health Clinics, rise of other services by other groups is one of these areas and their ability to create a better model is hampered by government's interference with this industry. This proposal is another form of corporate greed.

Existing Expenditures for Planned Parenthood

Connecticut already provides Planned Parenthood for funding for 75% of the state's abortions, educational contracts, and HIV and AIDS treatment. Husky already provides significant reimbursement to Planned Parenthood. **In 2014, the State granted Planned Parenthood of Southern New England with a \$404,000 state grant to renovate its New Haven headquarters.** This is an abhorrent use of taxpayer dollars. Where does our financial support end?

I do not agree with Connecticut's policies propping up an abortion provider which seems perfectly capable of raising private donations for its non-profit operations.

This proposal also commingles – perhaps illegally if Connecticut’s Department of Public Health receives federal funding in its budget and is then passed-through to Planned Parenthood – funding mixing non-Title X funds with prohibited acts by the same personnel, infrastructure and services under the same roof.

Public Polling

SB 274 runs counter to national polling where strong majorities of self-identified pro-choice and pro-life citizens object to taxpayer funded abortion.

Fundamental Ethical Concerns

Abortion is murder.

Planned Parenthood is an abortion provider, no matter how they dress up their menu of services. You can buy a beer at Fenway Park, but Fenway Park is not a bar. You can buy hot dogs at Yankee Stadium, but the House of Ruth isn’t a hot dog stand. They are baseball stadiums. Likewise, Planned Parenthood could have chosen to segregate its abortion services from its other services (birth control, contraception, STD testing, education, and other services). Certainly they considered this. But it chose not to didn’t because abortion is central to their services. Proponents might window-dress the services of Planned Parenthood to seek this funding for Planned Parenthood is: an abortion provider. Its staff works towards abortions. Its facilities are built for them. Proponents insist that referrals for abortion be an essential part of the menu. Large numbers of taxpayers -including pro choicers - object to this use of taxpayer dollars.

The political party, Hezbollah is viewed by a terrorist organization by the United States. But in Lebanon, the organization runs schools, paves roads, and provides vital and indispensable social services. They’re militant goals which have led to car bombings, assassinations, and direct attacks on Israeli, French and American assets have been dressed up.

Likewise, Planned Parenthood window dresses its murder of many thousands of Connecticut residents. This genocide is on the magnitude of the worst regimes in world history. Our tax dollars cannot support that bloodshed. Passing this bill further exacerbates this bloody stain on our state. You have many other priorities and alternatives you could support instead.

Finally let’s call this action what it is. Planned Parenthood’s chose to reject Title X funds. The HHS decision is a funding policy, not a “gag order”. Planned Parenthood is not being restricted in speaking, educating, or providing any services that they provided before the decision by the Health and Human Services Decision was made earlier this year. If they believe they are limited, then it was self-imposed and are responsible for that decision. To say otherwise is pure politics, and should not be the basis for funding this questionable organization.