

To whom it may concern,

My name is Margaret Adair Quinn, and I live in Bethany CT 06524.

As I am unable to attend the public hearing, I am writing to express my unqualified support for S.B. No. 274 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND OTHER FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS).

The support of reproductive health care is a vital part of good Public Health policy, and preventive services are the core of all good health. The withdrawal of Title X funding from Planned Parenthood and other clinics due to their refusal to halt legal, safe and necessary abortion services places a large section of our most vulnerable citizenry at risk of losing low cost or free reproductive health care, with the consequence risk of adverse effects that can extend beyond individuals and affect whole communities.

-Lack of free or affordable access to early pregnancy testing can delay prenatal care at the most critical stages of development, resulting in poor maternal and fetal health and increased likelihood of complications, low birth weights and difficult and costly deliveries.

-Lack of free or affordable access to Birth Control will result in more unwanted pregnancies and additional need for abortion services for those who cannot or wish not to parent.

-Lack of free or affordable access to early STD testing can cause the spread of easily treatable disease throughout communities, and can adversely affect the future reproductive health of both men and women.

-Lack of free or affordable early cancer screenings will lead to later diagnosis and more difficult treatment of breast, cervical, ovarian and testicular cancers, and will certainly raise death rates for these diseases.

Title X clinics are the first line of defense for low income residents of Connecticut in maintaining reproductive health. More affluent citizens can access care without State assistance, but if we refuse to fund these clinics at the public expense, we risk defining low income people as second class citizens deemed unworthy of the equal care. And the costs to the State of replacing Title X funds are likely far less than the public charge might be for playing catch up when vulnerable citizens have severe adverse outcomes due to the denial of preventive care.

I urge the Legislature to vociferously support S.B. No. 274.

Yours in good faith,

Margaret Adair Quinn
335 Litchfield Tpke
Bethany CT 06524
203-645-6662
maqart@earthlink.net