

Support for S.B. 274 An Act Concerning Increased Funding To Planned Parenthood And Other Family Planning Clinics

March 5, 2020

Dear Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Jennifer Rodney. I am a Connecticut born and raised voter (06905) and American citizen living in Switzerland. While I currently live abroad, my heart remains in Connecticut where I regularly return to spend time with family.

I'm writing today in support of I am writing in support of S.B. 274 regarding providing funding to Planned Parenthood and other family planning providers in Connecticut.

In a country where a significant proportion of the population does not have health insurance, Planned Parenthood provides affordable, accessible, essential, life-saving healthcare. In a country where insufficient or abstinence-based sex education actually puts young people at risk and increases the likelihood of teen pregnancy, Planned Parenthood provides science-based, compassionate support for all people navigating their choices around sex and reproduction. In a country where marginalized communities still face so many challenges, Planned Parenthood provides a safe, supportive space.

It is clear that the healthcare and family planning services provided by Planned Parenthood benefit all of society. If one can't accept this from a point of women's rights and safety, one has to at least comprehend the financial benefit.

"According to Planned Parenthood, 90% of the services they offer are preventive care, which reduces a later burden of disease for women and healthcare costs for everyone."  
(<https://www.forbes.com/sites/emilywillingham/2015/11/29/why-we-all-need-planned-parenthood/>)

"In calling for the defunding of the national reproductive health provider—a move that would place basic health care and services, including family planning, out of reach for millions—the candidates are ignoring research that has over and over again show that publicly funded family planning is one of our government's smartest and most cost-effective public investments." (<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/09/planned-parenthood-economic-benefits/405922/>)

On a personal note, I myself have used Planned Parenthood's services on multiple occasions, including their affordable cancer screening service at a time when I did not have health insurance. Because of them, I was able to discover and treat cervical pre-cancer before it was too late. Planned Parenthood very likely saved my life. In all my appointments with Planned Parenthood over the years, the incredible women working there have always made me feel safe, seen and supported - something that EVERYONE deserves in their healthcare journey. Their work is essential and is an investment in the people of Connecticut. I ask you with full conviction to support S.B. 274 and provide funding this incredible and important institution.

I thank you for your time, work, and consideration.

Jennifer Rodney  
Voter in Stamford, Connecticut 06905