

Tuesday, March 03, 2020

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

I am writing today in SUPPORT of SB 274 (AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND OTHER FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS.) hich will provide critical funding for continued access to preventive reproductive health care for the people of Connecticut who already struggle to get the care they need.

I attended a small private catholic high school... needless to say I did not get much guidance in terms of reproductive health in school. Planned Parenthood was there for me. When I didnt have medical coverage, Planned Parenthood gave me access to affordable "well woman" exams.

In 1987 Planned Parenthood was providing FREE HIV testing. This was MORE then the federal government was providing for folks in a true time of crisis. I have many friends who got wonderful guidance and piece of mind (and counseling) from this service when they were in need.

Planned Parenthood isnt just for women! They provide cancer screening, vasectomy and a host of other alternatives for men.

In 2018, PPSNE served 41,096 Title X patients at 11 health centers in Connecticut, accounting for 88% of those served by Title X in the state. 86% patients identified as women; 14% identified as men; 64% were at or below 150% of the federal poverty level (\$18,735); 54% of patients identify as people of color – 23% are Black or African American and 23% are Latino/a/x

I stand with Planned Parenthood, and I implore you to do the right thing, the kind thing and provide the institution the funding it needs to help not just women, but all people in Connecticut in need.

Thank you to Governor Lamont and elected leaders for supporting family planning funding in the budget and continuing our state's strong commitment to protecting and improving women's health care. I strongly support raised S.B. 274 and urge the committee and legislature to vote favorably to support funding for family planning providers, including Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, and protect access to sexual and reproductive health care for those most in need in our state.

Thank you for your time.

Irene Skrybailo

205 Pumpkin Hill Road

New Milford CT 06776