

Subject: Support SB 274

Distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support SB 274 *An Act Concerning Increased Funding To Planned Parenthood And Other Family Planning Clinics*. SB 274 will provide critical funding to ensure access to preventive reproductive health care for many of Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens.

When I was a young person fresh out of college with no money and no health insurance, I turned to my local Planned Parenthood for wellness exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings, and the diagnosis and antibiotics I desperately needed for a urinary tract infection. As a parent now to three young children, I hope that my kids will have the same access to thorough, compassionate, affordable care should they ever find themselves in a similar situation in the future. With the loss of Federal Title X money, many will lose access to free and low-cost basic care, like birth control, STI testing, and cancer screenings, if the state doesn't intervene. I would be proud to know that some of my family's tax dollars are being used to preserve and protect access to the vital services that family planning clinics like Planned Parenthood provide. Because health care - including sexual and reproductive health care - is a human right.

I consider myself fortunate to live in a state that has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing issues around health care affordability and accessibility. This legislation will build on that legacy, fighting health care inequity and ensuring all Connecticut residents can access the health care that they need and deserve. I strongly support SB 274 and urge the committee and legislature to vote in favor of protecting access to sexual and reproductive health care for those most in need in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Laurel Steinhauser
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