



**Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 274: An Act Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family
Planning Clinics**

**Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
March 5, 2020**

Thank you, chairs and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 274: An Act Concerning Funding for Planned Parenthood and Other Family Planning Clinics. The bill proposes to offset the Title X federal funds lost by Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics due to their warranted non-compliance with the unethical gag rule (provisions of 42 CFR 59.5(a)(5)).

At Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, our mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable, equitable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. We support this bill because Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics are a critical provider of affordable, quality health care to a variety of populations, including people with low incomes, people of color, immigrants, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

We support the state restoration of funds to Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics, so that they can continue to provide important sexual and reproductive health services to state residents. Without the Title X funding program, many patients will lose access to free or low-cost care, such as birth control, sexually transmitted disease testing, and cancer screenings.

Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics have withdrawn from Title X funding because they refuse to follow the unethical “gag rule” required to receive funds. Essentially, the “gag rule” dictates what health care providers in Title X programs can tell their patients – that they are entitled to a safe, legal abortion if they so choose. We stand with Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics in their choice to refuse Title X monies.

We urge the legislature to pass Senate Bill 274 to make up for this loss of funds, so that the many patients who rely on family planning clinics for care will be able to continue to get the care they need at a price they can afford. Thank you for your time.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut’s mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable, equitable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. We believe that health care is a fundamental right and that our work is part of a broader movement for social and economic justice.