

Dear Chair Tanzi and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Human Services,

My name is Aleece Olivia La Mountain, I was born and reside in Providence, RI. I am a Planned Parenthood Intern and Johnson & Wales University student in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing in very strong support of the proposed one-time budget allocation of \$600,000 for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) contained in Article 1, Section 1 for EOHHS of the proposed FY 2027 budget (H 7127). This proposed funding would cover the cost of preventive care such as STI testing/treatment, birth control, cancer screenings, and other essential health services for patients who are barred from using Medicaid insurance at PPSNE after H.R.1 law passed in July 2025.

For students at Johnson & Wales University, access to PPSNE reproductive and preventive healthcare is as important as it is essential. Many of us rely on Planned Parenthood as it is the most accessible resource that provides respectable healthcare. The health center's proximity to campus makes it the only realistic option for students who lack transportation, financial flexibility, or an established provider in the area. A significant size of our population utilizes the health center for services such as STI testing/treatment, contraception, exams, and screenings.

If funding for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) is supported, it would ensure that all individuals can continue receiving consistent, affordable, timely care. However, if this funding is not passed, the impact on my community would be deeply concerning and have immediate ramifications. Many students would either lose or have delay of access to the only nearby provider they trust and can realistically reach. This would increase delay of essential care altogether, in addition to the risk of unplanned pregnancies, untreated infections, and medical emergencies. Ultimately, failing to pass this funding would create significant gaps of care within the Providence community and disproportionately affect those who are already the most vulnerable.

Accessibility to given reproductive care remains vulnerable. In all, I am in full support of the budget allocation in H 7127 because all Rhode Islanders should have the right to choose their provider and receive care as warranted. I urge the committee to support the proposed \$600,000 to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England in the FY 2027 budget to ensure the necessary state funding for preventive health services and to protect patients' access to care. Patients, students, and individuals are counting on the state to step in and backfill

the blocked federal funding so PPSNE can continue to serve patients who need care now and in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter.

Sincerely,

Aleece La Mountain

60 Broad St, Providence, RI, 02790.