

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

My name is Dr. Rose Mahoney, I am from Cranston. I am an OB/GYN Resident at Women & Infants' Hospital.

I am testifying in 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 funding will cover the cost of preventive care such as cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, birth control, and other essential health care for patients who are now blocked from using their Medicaid insurance at PPSNE due to the "defund" provision in the federal H.R.1 law passed in July 2025. PPSNE is a safety net provider serving nearly 10,000 patients last year in Rhode Island. Patients 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.

Many of the patients who I care for at Women & Infants' Hospital have visited PPSNE for sexual and reproductive health care and tell me about their excellent experiences receiving life changing medical care. They tell me that they were able to be scheduled in a timely fashion and felt heard and respected while being cared for at PPSNE. Planned Parenthood is a cornerstone of reproductive health for our community. H.R. 1 effectively "defunds" Planned Parenthood and would put our community, which is already facing a healthcare provider shortage, at risk of losing an excellent provider of Obstetric and Gynecologic care. Eighty-two percent of care provided at PPSNE is preventative or gynecological (including birth control prescription, STI treatment and prevention, primary care, and preventive exams).

Access to reproductive and primary health care remains vulnerable in Rhode Island. All Rhode Islanders should be able to visit their trusted provider for the health care they need. I support the budget allocation for PPSNE in H 7127.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rose Mahoney, MD