



American Civil Liberties Union of RI
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Catholics for Choice
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Hope and Change Partnership
Humanists of Rhode Island
League of Women Voters, RI
Medical Students for Choice
National Council of Jewish Women, RI Action Team
Perinatal Quality Collaborative
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Reproductive Health Access Project
Resolve New England

RI Abortion Fund
RI Academy of Family Physicians
RI Atheists
RI Black Business Association
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence
RI National Association of Social Workers
RI National Organization for Women
RI Pharmacists Association
RI Psychiatric Society
RI Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom
RI State Council of Churches
RI Working Families Party
Sojourner House
Upstream
Women's Fund of Rhode Island

To: Representative Teresa Tanzi, Chair of the House Committee on Finance Subcommittee on Human Services; Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Date: March 25, 2026

Re: Support for House Bill 7127, Article 1 Section 1, \$600,000 One-Time Grant Funding for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I write to express the strong support of the RI Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (RICRF) for the \$600,000 grant allocation for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England as contained within the draft FY 2027 state budget. Our Coalition, made up of 29 member organizations, works together to share resources, build strategies and coordinate efforts to connect reproductive freedom with social and economic justice. We recognize real inequalities in our state and we envision a RI where everyone has access to affordable and comprehensive reproductive health care.

During a time where reproductive and sexual health care remains under federal attack, Rhode Island must preserve and expand access to this care for its residents, especially when federal actions directly impact the ability of Rhode Island health care centers to continue to provide trusted care to their patients. When the federal H.R. 1 passed last year, Planned Parenthood's Providence health center - and Planned Parenthood health centers across the country - were barred from submitting to federal Medicaid for reimbursement of preventive care services such as cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, birth control, and more. This resulted in Planned Parenthood of Southern New England covering the cost of \$600,000 worth of preventive services that, in any other year, would have been reimbursed by federal Medicaid. However, while PPSNE has ensured that its Medicaid patients do not lose out on critical preventive services, expecting health care providers to continue to eat the cost of these services is unsustainable, and requires state support and intervention.

Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to continue to visit their trusted providers, including Planned Parenthood. Of the 10,000 patients served at the Providence health center each year, nearly a quarter of those patients are insured by Medicaid. To preserve access to inclusive health care services in Rhode Island for all residents, it is critical to provide this financial support for such an important provider of preventive health care.

Now more than ever, as states around the nation restrict reproductive freedom and gender-affirming healthcare, Rhode Island must be a beacon of hope and stand up for access for all Rhode Islanders. This grant allocation for PPSNE helps achieve that.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'nj', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicole Jellinek, Chair, Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom