

Written Testimony from Upstream USA  
Re: H 7127 (Budget): Protect Planned Parenthood Patients  
House Committee on Finance Subcommittee on Human Services - March 25, 2026

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

Upstream USA welcomes the opportunity to submit comments regarding House Bill 7127, which would provide a 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). Upstream is a national nonprofit whose mission is to ensure that the full range of contraceptive services is available to patients wherever they seek primary care. Therefore, we emphatically support the services that Planned Parenthood of Southern New England provides to patients seeking affordable preventive care.

In 2020, Upstream launched a multi-year program initiative in Rhode Island to expand access to the full range of contraceptive methods, and we have since partnered with a dozen clinics across the state. As a member of the Rhode Island Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, Upstream supports House Bill 7127 in the Governor's budget to backfill the blocked federal funds that benefit the nearly 10,000 patients who seek care at RI safety net clinics.

PPSNE clinics provide critical services to patients who are most in need - including cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, birth control, and other essential health care services. Without this budget allocation, the 64,000 Rhode Island women who live in contraceptive deserts across the state would be disproportionately harmed and would experience significant barriers to access for comprehensive health services.<sup>1</sup>

Upstream commends the other twelve states that have taken action to fund these critical services and help protect access to care for patients in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Washington—we encourage Rhode Island to join this group. In passing this bill, Rhode Island would expand timely and affordable access to contraception for patients across the state. We urge you to pass H 7127. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Thornton  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Upstream USA

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<sup>1</sup> Power to Decide, "[Contraceptive Access Deserts](#)" 2022.