

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

My name is Rose Ann Huynh and hail from Providence. I am an Obstetrician and Gynecologist serving patients across Rhode Island.

I am testifying in 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 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.

As a provider that not only sees Rhode Islanders outpatient, inpatient, but also in the emergency room, I have seen firsthand the impact Planned Parenthood has had on my patients. As you might have heard from your constituents, healthcare costs have continued to rise and are now unaffordable for many Rhode Islanders. Planned Parenthood acts as a safety net for many of these patients that would otherwise be living with preventable diseases such as pelvic inflammatory disease or cervical cancer, which ultimately have the impact to kill patients if left untreated. There are many patient stories I can relay, but one patient, who will be renamed for anonymity, is Gretchen. She was transferred from another hospital after receiving blood transfusions for heavy vaginal bleeding. On my exam, she was found to have advanced cervical cancer, something that can be caught early if regular pap smears were performed. When Gretchen received her diagnosis, she started saying the Lord’s Prayer and expressing that she wished she saw a gynecologist sooner.

Planned Parenthood provides the means for patients to get the regular care they need to prevent these heartbreaking situations from occurring. Not only do they directly provide care, but they also perform community outreach, so Rhode Islanders are reminded of the healthcare maintenance they need to keep themselves healthy. The impact is apparent as 1 in 3 women have been to Planned Parenthood for their care. Nearly 10,000 patients visited PPSNE for care at the Providence health center and through telehealth in FY 25, and 24% percent, over 2300, of those patients were insured by Medicaid to cover their services. However, this care has been irreparably harmed through H.R. 1 as Planned Parenthood health centers can’t be reimbursed for preventive services they provide, impacting 1.1 million patients nationwide.

Access to reproductive and routine health care remains vulnerable here in Rhode Island. I support the budget allocation in H 7127 because all Rhode Islanders should be able to visit their provider for the care they need. 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



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