

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

My name is Gary Fishman. I live in Cranston and I am reaching out as a proud Rhode Island citizen, a concerned physician, and as a board member of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England.

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 a variety of patient care such as STI testing and treatment, birth control, and cancer screenings. **Last year alone, PPSNE diagnosed over 20 cancers!** Without this funding, I have no doubt that Rhode Islanders' lives will be severely negatively impacted. PPSNE served 10,000 patients last year in Rhode Island and given the lack of primary care providers in our state, I do not doubt that many of these patients have no alternatives.

This bill is critically important to me on several levels. I came to Rhode Island in 1991 practicing medicine at Women and Infants Hospital in Brown University. I have seen firsthand what access to care can provide and what the lack of access leads to with the negative impact on both health and quality of life.

I voted with my feet to join the board of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England given the critical work that it does and, now, I am even more fully aware of the positive role that it plays.

I have been approached by numerous friends and family asking "where do I get a PCP" and "where can I go for screening"? There is no good answer today or in the near future (regardless of saving Roger Williams and Fatima).

Please feel free to reach out to me directly about this bill and any information or testimony that I can provide. I am so proud and privileged to live in Rhode Island where I believe that we do our best to provide outstanding world class health care and access for our citizens. We are a state that supports both individual rights and choices and without this funding all of this will be at risk.

PLEASE support the proposed \$600,000 to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England in the FY 2027 budget.

Please let me know what I can do to further this cause. Thank you for your time and service to our State.

Gary

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