



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-H 7762,
AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY - FAIR CHANCE IN HOUSING CREDIT REPORTS ACT
House Committee on Judiciary
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
March 18, 2026**

Dear Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

In my capacity as the Director, Public Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of House Bill 7762**. PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

Reproductive freedom includes economic security for all, which in turn ensures greater access to health care, critical resources, and, importantly, housing. This legislation will ensure that no applicant for housing is discriminated against because of their distant economic past by limiting the consideration of credit reports in rental applications to the three years immediately preceding the application.

Stable housing is a human right, and an individual's qualifications for a rental unit should be determined solely by their current ability to pay for that unit – not by potentially irrelevant past economic turmoil that has since been settled. Our understanding of the social determinants of health equity includes an individual's access to consistent housing, so when we examine ways that our state can uplift access to health care – especially and including reproductive health care – easing the ability to seek and maintain housing, especially for those who have had previous economic struggles, is tantamount to this effort.

Planned Parenthood will continue to fight for policies that protect the rights of all people to ensure that our patients and our communities have what they need to live healthy and self-

determined lives. H 7762 is a critical step in ensuring that all Rhode Islanders have the housing security to access the health care that they deserve.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'H Stern', is positioned above the typed name.

Hannah Stern
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