



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-S 2018,
JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE, PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A
PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -
RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION
Senate Committee on Education
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
March 4, 2026**

Dear Chair Gallo and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Education:

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 Senate Resolution 2018**. 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 is truly achieved when all individuals have the resources available to them to make informed decisions about their bodies, their autonomy, and their health with the full understanding and cognizance of the impact of those choices. Foundational to this ability is an education which emphasizes literacy, self-direction, and equity in its opportunities.

This resolution seeks to ensure that all students in Rhode Island receive an education which centers these values, and that education in Rhode Island is provided equitably to all students, regardless of their zip code. Such comprehensive and adequate education is empowering and teaches students the importance of personal choice – tools that are fundamental to cultivating a society that prioritizes and upholds the tenets of reproductive choice and freedom.

In line with PPSNE's dedication to fighting for policies that comprehensively protect the lives of all Rhode Islanders as a way of ensuring that our patients, and our communities,

have the resources they need to live healthy, safe, and self-determined lives, we urge support for S 2018.

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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