



**LWVRI Written Testimony Submitted in Support of Funding for PPSNE
Included in the Proposed FY 2027 Budget (H 7127, Article 1 EOHHS)**

Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The League of Women Voters of RI (LWVRI)¹ strongly supports the proposed one-time allocation of \$600,000 for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) in the FY 2027 budget (H 7127).

This funding is essential. It will cover preventive services such as cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, birth control, and other basic health care that Rhode Islanders rely on every day. These services are no longer reimbursed through Medicaid due to the “defund” provision in federal H.R.1, signed into law in July 2025. As a result, PPSNE, one of our state’s most critical safety net providers, is being denied reimbursement for care it is already delivering. Without state action, patients will lose access to trusted, timely care.

LWVRI believes that all people deserve access to comprehensive health care, including sexual and reproductive health care. Planned Parenthood health centers are indispensable to our health care system and, in many communities, are the primary provider of this care. The impact of inaction is clear: when reimbursement is cut off, access is cut off.

The scale of need in Rhode Island is significant. Nearly 10,000 patients received care at the Providence health center or via telehealth in FY25. Of these, 24%, more than 2,300 patients, relied on Medicaid. These are patients who will be directly affected if this funding gap is not addressed.

States across the country are not waiting; they are acting. Several states—including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Colorado, and New York—have already committed millions in funding to protect access to care and ensure that Medicaid patients are not left behind.

Access to preventive health care is foundational to public health, economic stability, and individual autonomy. In Rhode Island, that access is now at risk. This is a clear and immediate gap that the State has the ability and responsibility to address.

We urge the Committee to approve the proposed \$600,000 allocation to PPSNE in the FY 2027 budget. This funding is necessary to ensure that Rhode Islanders can continue to receive essential preventive health services from providers they trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gene Thompson-Grove
President, League of Women Voters of Rhode Island

¹ LWVRI is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. Through education, advocacy, and civic education, LWVRI works to ensure that every Rhode Islander can participate fully in the democratic process.