



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-S 2823 & H 7127 Article 5, Section 5,
AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -
PERSONAL INCOME TAX
Senate Committee on Finance
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
April 7, 2026**

Dear Chair DiPalma and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

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 both Senate Bill S 2823 and H 7127 Article 5, Section 5**. 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 encompasses all aspects of a person’s life, including those that may affect their economic stability. We believe that all people deserve the economic security to care for themselves and their families with dignity. Through the experience of our patients, we understand the juggling that Rhode Islanders must do every month to pay their bills, care for their families, and meet their basic needs. Any alleviation of the financial stress that so many families undergo allows for both more economic mobility and an increased ability for families to seek out and meet their health care needs.

S 2823 and Article 5, Section 5 of the proposed FY 2027 budget both provide for the enactment of a statewide child tax credit of \$650 and \$325, respectively. Child tax credits ensure that families with children will receive a cash refund which can be used to pay down debt, purchase necessities like food, pay bills, support children's education, and more. When finances for urgent needs like food, water, and shelter are stable, people gain the flexibility and economic security to access other services which are just as necessary but may feel more discretionary when budgets are tight, such as health care. Longterm, impacting one of the core social determinants of health – income – at the earliest ages and

reducing childhood poverty is a comprehensive and forward-thinking method of ensuring better health outcomes in our state for decades to come.

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 2823 and Article 5, Section 5 of the proposed FY 2027 budget.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Stern', written in a cursive style.

Hannah Stern
Director, Public Policy and Government Relations
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
hannah.stern@ppsne.org