



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-S 2108,  
AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE –  
ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES  
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services  
Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
April 16, 2026**

Dear Chair Murray and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services:

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 Bill 2108**. 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.

An essential component of sustainable access to care includes ensuring that providers are adequately compensated for care provided. After decades of lack of investment in sexual and reproductive health care providers – particularly abortion providers – state coverage for this care has not kept up with the actual cost of providing these health care services. With the signing of H.R. 1 into federal law last summer, health care funding and health care coverage has become even more precarious, including for Planned Parenthood patients. Through H.R. 1, Planned Parenthood was barred from submitting for reimbursement of preventive services to federal Medicaid, leaving the 24% of PPSNE patients in Providence who depend on Medicaid insurance vulnerable. In addition, the gutting of federal Medicaid and the failure of Congress to act to extend the ACA’s enhanced premium tax credits have left tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders at risk of losing their insurance.

Because of federal action, safety net providers like PPSNE have been shouldering the cost of providing preventive services to our Medicaid patients despite not being reimbursed for the care delivered – but this is simply unsustainable long term. State-level action to ensure

that insurance reimbursement rates adequately cover the cost of delivering care is both urgent and important. This bill ensures that no insurance plan may provide reimbursement for a service at a rate *less* than Medicaid, setting a critical baseline for reimbursement of services and giving a predictable structure for reimbursement to health care providers who are only trying to ensure that they are able to provide necessary care to their patients.

S 2108 is a simple piece of legislation that provides not only a universal standard for reimbursement rates but gives health care providers the assurance of the minimum reimbursement they will receive for the necessary services they are providing their patients. We urge support for this important bill.

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  
Director, Public Policy and Government Relations  
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
[hannah.stern@ppsne.org](mailto:hannah.stern@ppsne.org)