

Chairman Timothy Derickson and Members of the Community and Family Advancement Committee:

I am writing in opposition to any defunding of Planned Parenthood Services. There are very few clinics in Ohio where indigent women and men can access essential reproductive health services. It makes no sense to deny these Ohioans health care services like birth control, cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment and well-woman exams.

Due to lack of funding, clinics across Ohio already have had to close. The impact of defunding Planned Parenthood would be a tremendous additional loss. Tens of thousands of patients would have no place to go for healthcare. These services are so very personal and to deny the service providers that the patients of Planned Parenthood are accustomed to seeing is a horrible thing to do. Put yourself in the position of a patient and what it would do to you to be forced to see another health care provider and discuss your sexual health, that is, if you can find one and even get to the clinic.

Thank you for your service and I am hopeful that funding for Planned Parenthood will continue.

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