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Kent, OH**

Testimony to the State of Ohio House Committee on Community and Family Advancement

November 4, 2015

Chairman Derickson, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking member Howse, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 294.

My name is Chelsea Golterman. I am a senior business major from Kent State University, interning here in Columbus with Dr. Vernon Sykes' Columbus Program in Intergovernmental Issues. I want to take this opportunity to tell you my story and why I believe you should vote against Bill 294, which plans to defund Planned Parenthood.

When I was under the age of eighteen (18) I received Caresource, a government funded Healthcare Program. Once I was of age I went to make an appointment with my doctor and was informed that just for the office visit I would have to come up with \$600.00. I couldn't afford that so I went to apply for my own assistance and was told that I made too much money. Luckily, I was able to get my yearly exam and birth control from Planned Parenthood. For the last 8 years Planned Parenthood has taken care of all my reproductive health care needs and I have never had an abortion.

In Youngstown where I normally live 34.6% of the population lives below the poverty line. Due to this all of the clinics are heavily overrun. At one time I was told that they were booked a year out and they were no longer taking patients, and that was the medical clinic. I have a vehicle and am able to drive to another area but someone without transportation would not be able to go beyond the scope of public transportation. I took the time to check and see what other facilities are available in the area, and there are only 2 other facilities besides the hospitals. Those two other options do not even offer the same services as Planned Parenthood.

By defunding Planned Parenthood you would be truly defunding healthcare choices for women. I sat here last week and heard testimony that this Bill would only move the money into other facilities, however, these facilities are already trying to take care of too many patients. From my understanding, out of all the Planned Parenthoods in Ohio only 3 of them actually perform abortions. Because of 3 facilities these organizations are asking that you defund 25 other facilities that provide necessary healthcare, birth control, counseling, and testing to 120,000 people per year in Ohio and 2.7 million women in the country. This is bad policy for Ohio and to me it seems like you are playing politics with my health care. Please vote no on House Bill 294.