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**Summit County, Ohio**

**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 Kelli Swan and I reside in Summit County, Ohio.

For many years I was self-employed. During those years, due to the high cost of health insurance, I had to go without insurance for an extended stretch of time. Planned Parenthood became my source for quality women's health care and preventative screenings. Planned Parenthood was an affordable way, the **only** affordable way available to me, to obtain these services.

I discovered that Planned Parenthood offered these services only after being in the uncomfortable position of needing treatment for a urinary tract infection. After having symptoms for several days, I called the office of a physician I had seen about 1.5 years earlier, when I still had insurance.

And guess what? The doctor refused to see/treat me for the UTI because I had not been in the office for the last year! Horrified, I asked what I was supposed to do. The receptionist replied "You can go to the emergency room."

So there you have it. Yet another reason our emergency rooms are over-run with the uninsured and non-emergency cases.

Thankfully a friend suggested that I try Planned Parenthood. That is how I discovered this wonderful organization and all it offers. I also received a pap smear so I could stay cancer-free.

Please do not defund this valuable and very-much-needed organization! Please, PLEASE use your great talents and legislative powers to guide us all on the big important issues, and leave this wonderful institution, that helps so many women, intact.

Thank you for your time and consideration!