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Testimony to the State of Ohio Senate Committee on Government Oversight and Reform
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Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Seitz, Ranking member Yuko, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 294.

I am a Work Readiness Instructor at Ohio Guidestone. I have been in this role for a year and a half and work with foster youth. I help them get their GED and housing assistance and transportation. I usually supply them with 200 hours of paid work and help them find permanent employment.

We wanted to conduct sex education classes for our clients so we reached out to Planned Parenthood. We went through a training course to be able to teach sexual health education to our foster youth clients. The Planned Parenthood instructors led our training like we were the kids in the education class. I learned many different class activities. Planned Parenthood has been great and our trainer has been incredibly helpful. They are always around to assist and help me lead the classes I teach for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) students. Building out the relationships has been really meaningful for me, with my clients and Planned Parenthood staff. A lot of my students have been in unhealthy or abusive relationships, so this education is crucial for them. Our clients have kids at early ages. They don't have the knowledge or resources to avoid early pregnancy or STIs. I know this makes a huge impact on their lives because they leave us notes after the class is done – the notes all say thank you.

I have worked with Planned Parenthood for a year now and they have been very helpful and supporting during my sex education class. This organization is the leading agency in sex education. I think they have made a tremendous impact on the lives of many young adults. I believe Planned Parenthood will continue to provide medically accurate sex education to young people in order to encourage them to lead healthy lives and continue to reduce high rates of pregnancies and STDs.

I have really enjoyed teaching the class. PREP and Planned Parenthood have made my job easier helping these kids. I do not know where I would go elsewhere to get the training or education to properly teach this class. There's nowhere else to go but to Planned Parenthood. They are well prepared and it's been helpful to our youth.

Please think of the benefits Planned Parenthood has made on youth. Cutting the funding to this program would be a huge mistake and would have negative implications throughout the community.