

Testimony of Jackie Mostow
Medical Student at Ohio State University
Opposing House Bill 294
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Chairman Coley, Senator Yuko and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you allowing me to speak with you today.

My name is Jackie Mostow and I am a second year medical student. I have lived in Ohio since I was four, and am overall proud to call it my home. I am here today in opposition to House Bill 294.

As a medical student, I spend hours every day studying the intricacies of the human body and how the outside world can affect our health and wellbeing. We learn not only how to treat illness and other health issues, but also how society and policies influence health outcomes.

Thanks to some of you and your companions in the House, I have also spent this year learning about the Ohio government and how a bill becomes a law, because as a future physician, I want for ALL of us to be on the same team. I want to live in a community, city, state and country where the health and wellbeing of each individual is more important than a Senator's religious beliefs, biases, and perspectives. I sat through the committee meetings on this bill as well as the similar Senate Bill 214. I do not know how, in good conscious, you were able to walk away from those sessions feeling comfortable defunding such an important community resource. Nationwide, Americans support FUNDING Planned Parenthood in a 2-1 marginⁱ. Furthermore, over half of all Ohioans support funding Planned Parenthoodⁱⁱ. As our representatives, I hope you open your minds and really listen to your constituents.

While I hope that someday we could be on the same team, today we are not. Today you are considering cutting vital healthcare resources from the people who need it most. You say there are other places for people to go, but I've been there. I've been a patient there, and I've been an employee there. There are many great resources, but they are all in high demand, and we all know that cutting supply does not help the situation.

In my past testimony to you, I explained three things:

1. First, I explained how the division of labor occurs in healthcare. Planned Parenthood is known to so many people as a place where they can go to get reproductive health services. Not all health centers offer that, and few do it with such compassion as Planned Parenthood.
2. Second, I talked about my experience actually working at a Community Health Center in Cleveland. It was one of the best jobs that I will ever have, and the clinic was able to serve so many patients in need. That being said, there were always long

waits, and though they provide reproductive healthcare, it is not their main focus. Defunding Planned Parenthood would be a huge leap backwards in terms of providing efficient, quality healthcare to all Ohio residents.

3. Finally, in my last testimony, I talked about sex education in schools. There are many providers of sex, sexuality and healthy relationship education in Ohio. Some of them, like Planned Parenthood's, educate students for a lifetime of healthy relationships. Others, like the one I had, focus on the artificial timeframe between middle school and marriage where the answer should always be "no." We all know how well that works, and even scientific research speaks against its efficacyⁱⁱⁱ.

As a medical student, but also as an Ohioan and a woman, I urge you to vote no on HB 294. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you, and I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

ⁱ Poll: By 2-1, funding for Planned Parenthood supported. USA Today. September 29, 2015.

ⁱⁱ Ohio voters oppose Iran deal but support Planned Parenthood funding, poll shows. Cleveland.com. August 24, 2015

ⁱⁱⁱ Consequences of Sex Education on Teen and Young Adult Sexual Behaviors and Outcomes. Lindberg, Laura Duberstein et al. Journal of Adolescent Health , Volume 51 , Issue 4 , 332 - 338