

Chairman Coley, Ranking Minority Member Senator Yuko, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak on this issue today.

My name is Chandni Pawar and I am a Medical Student at The Ohio State University. I am from Mansfield, Ohio and attended The Ohio State University for undergrad as well. Today I am here to speak in opposition to House Bill 294.

Today, I speak as a patient of Planned Parenthood's Services. Growing up in a moderately traditional Indian household in a small town, Planned Parenthood was the only confidential, accessible, and reliable resource to healthcare I felt I had as a high school student. The providers treated me with compassion and respect as they informed me of my contraception options.

Unfortunately, some of my classmates were not as fortunate in terms of preventative measures. Several of my middle school and high school classmates became pregnant over the years, but only a few carried to term. An unwanted pregnancy in a small town puts young women in desperate situations and drives them to very desperate measures. In middle school, a classmate had her teammates throw basketballs at her stomach. Another student took an assortment of her parents' prescription pills. More often, a classmate would disappear for a week and come back no longer pregnant. This universal story enforces that those with the means to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, can and will. However, the young women who are at most jeopardy in terms of their health, finances, and opportunities, risk unnecessary and dangerous difficulties.

My point is to emphasize that these resources are invaluable to women all ages and means throughout Ohio. I can't be sure that I would have made it this far in my education if not for the brave providers at Planned Parenthood. As a future provider, I can only hope that young women may never have to face the difficult choices that my classmates had to. However, if they are in such a position, I hope that they are treated with the respect and compassion that they deserve. It is for these young women and their futures that I urge you to vote no on S.B. 194.

I am happy to answer any questions the committee members have. Thank you for your time and consideration.