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Chairman Coley, Vice-chair Seitz, ranking member Yuko, and distinguished members of the Government Oversight and Reform committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 214.

When I turned 23 I was removed from my parent's health insurance plan because that was the age limit before the Affordable Care Act. I had just moved to Ohio from Georgia. I was still a full time student about to graduate. Luckily, I already had a job with a non-profit which provided health insurance, but that didn't last long. Once again I was uninsured but this time I was no longer a student and I was unemployed.

At first, I tried Marion Hospital, but the doctor was judgmental, didn't answer a lot of the questions I had, and tried to dissuade me from the patch (instead wanted to push a pill form of birth control). This is when I turned to Planned Parenthood, where the staff treated me with respect and I got affordable birth control without judgement.

I am a responsible adult in a committed relationship but I am NOT READY for children. Planned Parenthood was the only place I could turn for affordable birth control and a full woman exam. I was able to use the patch as a medical treatment to regulate my menstrual cycle and later, I got an IUD through my works insurance. I was able to do all of this because of PP's professional and knowledgeable staff. And for that, I am extremely thankful to Planned Parenthood.

The staff at my local PP in Dayton, OH is amazing. They were willing to work with me on making payments or gave me a payment I could afford upfront. Medical bills always plague me so it was a relief to be able to pay them upfront. Medical debt is extremely overwhelming and when you're unemployed you can feel like you're sinking. Having access to affordable health care is a must in my life and I am extremely grateful that PP. I don't know what I would do without Planned Parenthood.