

Opponent Testimony for House Bill 410
House Medicaid Committee
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Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio Speakers Bureau Member

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Noyonikaa Gupta and I use she/her pronouns. I am a medical student in Northeast Ohio who grew up in Columbus and cares deeply about both communities. I am here to oppose House Bill 410, which effectively defunds Planned Parenthood and acts as a backdoor abortion ban.

As a student physician in Northeast Ohio, I've watched our healthcare safety net unravel from both sides of the exam table. Planned Parenthood's Kent and Akron locations served thousands of patients annually before federal funding restrictions hit. HB 410 is a direct attack on the 43% of Planned Parenthood patients who rely on Medicaid. In addition to restricting healthcare access for thousands of women and families, this bill will inevitably lead to brain drain from Ohio. The young physicians of my generation will be forced to violate the Hippocratic Oath because of this legislation, going against every moral imperative that drew us to the profession in the first place.

Summit and Portage counties have some of Ohio's highest rates of infant mortality and maternal morbidity especially among Black women. Defunding reproductive and preventative care exacerbates these inequities while straining emergency rooms at Summa Health, UH Portage, and AxessPointe Clinics. Planned Parenthood provides critical preventative services like HPV vaccination and early cancer detection; these services would now be shifted to overburdened community clinics, which are not adequately equipped to take on the extra caseload. When you defund reproductive and preventative care, you're not just shifting the burden. You're eroding the foundation of community health and stripping lifesaving healthcare from those who need it most.

As a medical student who will soon be serving my Northeast Ohio community, I will take an oath to do no harm – but our legislators already are. I demand that state legislators reverse the Planned Parenthood funding ban and protect Medicaid expansion. If this is the future of healthcare in Ohio, then my generation of doctors won't be inheriting a system to heal, we'll be left to resuscitate a state that chose suffering over care.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions.