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**Testimony to the State of Ohio House Committee on Community and Family Advancement**  
**November 4, 2015**

Chairman Derickson, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking member Howse, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 294.

During my teen years I was a vocal anti-abortion and anti-PP pro-lifer, but as I matured, I realized the problematic nature of that stance, but just kept quiet on all fronts for a long time.

During my first pregnancy I found myself researching birth options and realizing it was a challenge to find accurate, unbiased information and even more difficult to truly make informed choices. I can't image how hard it must be for someone who is less advantaged than I am.

Some of the pregnancy and birth options I was learning about were unavailable or highly limited which seemed an unjust circumstance of our health and legal system.

This led to an intense interest in all reproductive health care options and their accessibility, leading me to a place of human understanding that included the discovery that organizations like Planned Parenthood offer important and necessary services that improve the communities in which they exist.

After my second child was born, I became a patient at Planned Parenthood for regular STI testing (which is as paramount to the health of communities as any other healthcare) and birth control. At PP, I found all the information I needed to make informed choices in my contraception. I had an IUD inserted a few months ago, and my experience was fantastic.

My plan in my future career in women's health has been regularly upended due to other life circumstances, and in the moments when I feel I will never be able to get the my career helping the women who need me, I find peace in the knowledge that I can and do support the people in my community by supporting Planned Parenthood. Please do not take this essential community health provider away. Please vote no on House Bill 294. Do not defund Planned Parenthood.

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