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**Testimony to the State of Ohio Senate Committee on Government Oversight and Reform  
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Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Seitz, Ranking member Yuko, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 294.

My name is Libby and I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I am a very typical Ohioan and woman. I work in Cincinnati in sales, my husband and I also own our small business, I volunteer for a dog rescue as a foster and board member, I come from small town Nebraska, I have my BA and MFA, and I am a contributing member of my community. And I also support Planned Parenthood in their mission to provide quality health care for all women.

I am a different woman now than I was when I first came to Cincinnati 15 years ago to begin my adult journey. I was a young woman who had hopes of making it in theatre and TV. I was a young woman who didn't have a lot of income, but worked 2-3 jobs in order to support myself and pursue my art. I was a pretty typical young person coming out of college, and I relied on Planned Parenthood to provide exceptional reproductive health care for me when I had no insurance and very little money left over at the end of the month when I paid my bills. I was also fortunate to be under the care of a Planned Parenthood doctor when she identified the cause of severe abdominal pain and was able to refer me to a general physician to help me with my problems. I relied on Planned Parenthood for my yearly exams which were critical to keep me in good health since I had previously had an abnormal pap smear. Planned Parenthood was there for me when I needed female health care the most. They are there to serve women just like me in times when it is critical for us to continue to find our way into adulthood and are desperate for the services they offer.

To deny a woman access to affordable reproductive health care by defunding Planned Parenthood, is to turn your back on your community. It is astonishing to think that our leaders do not see the connection between real sex education, and access to reproductive health with a more healthy society which in turn will help us be stronger and less dependent on government assistance. If you defund Planned Parenthood, you tell women just like me that we don't matter. You send the message that young women in our community are on their own and that we don't matter.

I stand behind Planned Parenthood as a woman, businesswoman, sister, aunt, daughter, and educated voter! Please vote today to continue financial support of Planned Parenthood.