

My name is Meagan Gallagher; I am the President & CEO of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE). PPNNE provides sexual and reproductive health care to 18,000 Vermonters at its 12 Vermont health centers each year. PPNNE has adopted the Healthy Vermonters 2020 goal of reducing unintended pregnancy from 50% to 35% by 2020 as our primary organizational objective. I am here to update the Committee on the status of implementation Act 120, the Access to Birth Control Law, and the status of federal efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.

During the Budget Adjustment process, PPNNE submitted a request for a \$65k full year budget adjustment to create parity among providers for the LARC value-based payment provision of Act 120. The stated intent of the value-based payment provision of Act 120 was to create parity among reimbursement for all types of contraception. However, the value-based payment methodology DVHA developed failed to accomplish this for all providers. DVHA's methodology is based on LARC reimbursement. PPNNE's LARC reimbursement is significantly lower than other providers because it participates in the federal 340b discount drug program. As a result, PPNNE's value-based payment for LARC was also significantly lower than other providers and did not create parity among reimbursement for all types of contraceptives.

I am pleased to report that, in partnership with Michael Costa at DVHA, we have found a resolution to the issue and expect to start receiving reimbursement consistent with the intent of Act 120 as of April 1 dates of service. Thank you for facilitating the resolution of this issue.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update the Committee on the status of efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. As you may know, the House bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) included a provision that would have prohibited Planned Parenthood from participating in the Medicaid program. The defeat of the ACA repeal was a relief for so many, including PPNNE and the 18,000 Vermonters we serve each year.

While the immediate threat has passed, leadership in Washington DC remains committed to defunding Planned Parenthood. We expect to see defunding efforts through rulemaking, the appropriations process or attached to other policy initiatives that are advanced through the budget reconciliation process including a possible revival of the repeal of the ACA. We don't know which of our funding stream will be attacked next or when. Options include Medicaid, as we saw with the ACA repeal, or Title X, the federal family planning grant program that is administered by the Vermont Department of Health. PPNNE is the only grantee of the Title X program. We are closely monitoring activities at the federal level and will keep the Committee apprised of new developments. Thank you for your interest and attention to the federal defund efforts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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