



H. 266 An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services

House Health Care Committee

Jessica Barquist, Vice President of Public Affairs

February 27, 2025

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care to more than 16,000 people in Vermont at seven health centers located in Burlington, Williston, St. Johnsbury, Barre, White River Junction, Rutland, and Brattleboro and virtually through our telehealth program. People turn to us for affordable, high-quality care including wellness exams, birth control, sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment, cancer screenings, abortion care, as well as a variety of limited primary care services. We see everyone who comes to us regardless of their ability to pay, and 54% of our patients have low incomes (defined as less than twice the Federal Poverty level). Last fiscal year, we provided \$1.3M in free and discounted care to our communities in Vermont.

PPNNE supports H. 266 as introduced. This bill will provide support for us as a safety net provider by preserving the program. This will protect access and services to our patients.

PPNNE participates in the 340b program as a covered entity and purchases family planning and family planning related drugs at a lower cost than a non-340 purchaser could access. We operate as our own pharmacy.

We pass on these cost savings directly to our patients. For example, we are able to purchase the Liletta IUD at only \$100 (manufacturer list price is 981) therefore, we're able to provide the device to patients on our sliding fee scale without incurring significant losses.

Without 340b purchasing as it is now, our expenses related to our contraceptive supplies would be more than double and we would not be able to provide low/no cost contraceptives to patients in the same way we do now.