

Heard at the CDWC Forum on Women's Reproductive Health May 21, 2025



Amanda Skinner, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, spoke of the reach of Planned Parenthood in CT and nationally. Already the present administration has cut PPSNE's Title X funds which totals 1.8 million for this year. She outlined the threats in the Trump budget including banning Planned Parenthood from billing Medicaid for its patients. It should be noted that 40% of PPSNE's revenue comes from its ability to bill Medicaid. If passed by both the House and Senate, this would be devastating to PPSNE's patients. She urged us to call our Senators and Representative even though they are supportive urging defeat of the budget bill. We need to tell our stories. 79% in CT support abortion rights."

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Attorney General Tong spoke of the impact of the Dobbs decision sharing that Justice Amy Coney-Barrett and Justice Kavanaugh were terrible on Dobbs. He and other state Attorneys General are fighting the unconstitutional actions of the Trump administration. AG Tong was just back from D.C. challenging Trump's Executive order regarding birthright citizenship. As a son of immigrants – now naturalized citizens, this case is personal. He reminded us that states do have sovereignty and that other states cannot impose their state law on CT as Texas threatens to prosecute CT providers that aid Texas women seeking reproductive care. He urged us to be strong and stand up, especially the younger generation. Men should also see this as their issue. He too urged us to say, 'enough is enough', use our power!

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Lois Sadler and Nancy Redeker did Cheshire Democratic women proud. Both Nancy and Lois discussed their research and the importance of NIH funding. NIH funded the home visiting model developed at Yale by Lois and colleagues Mind the Baby. Nancy shared that she and Lois are now working on a grant submission and face the dilemma of NIH's recent ban on diversity, inclusion, and equity given their targeted populations are women and children of color. They made clear the impact of

suspending NIH funding: the long term science and economic ramifications; research teams lose their jobs when grant funds are lost; a new generation of researchers could be lost; long-term studies findings are lost; and the training of the workforce is diminished. We must make real the abstract of NIH funding.

