

**Testimony of Kanisha Hans**  
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Hi, my name is Kanisha Hans and I'm from Boston, Massachusetts. I'm 23 years old, an Indian immigrant, and a recent college graduate.

Thank you Senator Warren and to all the Senators that have invited me today to share my story about how important the Affordable Care Act and access to reproductive health care providers, like Planned Parenthood, can not be repealed without devastating impact on the health and well being of millions of people.

Like the vast majority of American women, I rely on birth control.

And, like millions of young people, I rely on my parents' insurance plan for my health care coverage.

For myself and millions of women across this country, having access to birth control and health insurance are central to staying healthy.

Both have allowed me to pursue a college education and ultimately secure and maintain employment.

When I was 15 years old, I needed a birth control prescription for medical reasons. Being from a reserved Indian family, I didn't feel comfortable discussing my situation at home so I told a friend who brought me to Planned Parenthood.

My doctor at Planned Parenthood prescribed me birth control and helped me afford it. This was one of the first times I felt like someone was listening to me about my own health care needs.

Remembering the caring and non-judgemental services provided to me, I sought Planned Parenthood again, years later in a new city. I needed to change birth control methods due to other health concerns. My insurance failed to cover the high cost of the specific type of birth control I needed, forcing me to use a prescription that didn't suit me and even exacerbated my symptoms.

Luckily, I was eventually able to rely again on a doctor I trusted at my local Planned Parenthood to manage and diagnose my condition.

There, they were able to cover the cost of my long acting, reversible contraception at a cost I could afford. This was before the women's preventive benefit and I was charged \$100 instead of \$900. This was critical for me because I would have been unable to afford the method that was best for my health while I was also pursuing my undergraduate degree and balancing other living expenses like tuition and rent .

Unfortunately, I know many women - many students - were priced out of this preventive care.

But today, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, these same barriers no longer exist like they once did for me.

Six years ago, the passage of health care reform was a historic step for women of all ages. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, I've joined the 55 million women nationwide who benefit from no co-pay birth control and expanded insurance coverage.

What's more important, is that women like me are able to afford the right kind of birth control for our bodies or condition -with no out of pocket costs and in consultation with our doctors.

Beyond just birth control, I now join millions of young people who are now getting access to needed health care coverage as a result of being able to stay on my parent's insurance until age 26 and I'm not forced to pay more because I'm a woman, or because I have a pre-existing condition.

I'm grateful to have a job, and while I'm not financially dependent on my parents, I am able to stay on their health care.

So, by staying on parents plan, I'm able to both stay healthy and pay my student loans on my own every month. Hopefully someday, I'll also be able to pursue a graduate degree.

This winter I went back to Planned Parenthood to get a new IUD. I did this because I am uncertain whether or not I will be able to afford one in the near future under the next administration and with Tom Price, who has a history of working to reduce access to care, leading the federal health care agency I am concerned that he is out of touch with the health care needs of patients like myself..

To be clear: Without Planned Parenthood and the Affordable Care Act, I would not be able to afford the birth control I need to manage my symptoms from the health condition that I have.

If Congressman Tom Price is successful in rolling back the ACA, I will be forced to pay for care I need, charged more because I am a woman, and could even lose my health insurance altogether.

He isn't looking out for me, he isn't looking out for women, men and young people, and he isn't looking out for the well being of Planned Parenthood patients. He cannot be trusted with my health or the health of this country.