

Dear Public Health Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of Advocacy for the CT-American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter which represents over 600 pediatricians in CT.

I am writing in support of HB 7213 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE.

The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for adolescents to have access to comprehensive, confidential reproductive healthcare which includes [contraception](#), [emergency contraception](#), [abortion care](#), [pregnancy care](#), and [testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections](#). It is critical that clinics, hospitals and pharmacies do not inhibit access to this essential medical care.

When there are [barriers to accessing contraception](#), there are increased rates of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal deaths, pregnancy complications, and maternal mental health challenges. [When abortion care is restricted](#), there are also higher maternal mortality rates. It is vital to [maintain confidential access to comprehensive reproductive care including abortion care](#) for adolescents as mandatory parental disclosure can lead to delays in obtaining needed medical care, limited treatment options, family discord, and safety concerns. It is also essential to ensure [confidential access to testing and treatment](#) for sexually transmitted infections for adolescents because when a [confidential environment is maintained](#), youth are more likely to disclose medical concerns and access needed medical care regarding sexual and reproductive health.

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Uninhibited access to comprehensive, confidential reproductive healthcare is critical for the health and wellbeing of Connecticut adolescents

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

**Molly Markowitz, MD FAAP**

Chair, Advocacy Committee

CT-American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter

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These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.