

Governor Wolf: "I Will Veto Senate Bill 300 Which Seeks to Defund Planned Parenthood"

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HARRISBURG, DAUPHIN COUNTY (WBRE/WYOU)- Senate Bill 300, which seeks to defund Planned Parenthood, is heading to the full Pennsylvania Senate after getting approved by a committee today.

The bill would prioritize spending on family planning services according to a list of categories.

Governor Tom Wolf says he will veto the bill and released this statement on the bill's advancement: "This bill is nothing more than an ideologically driven attempt to disrupt health services for thousands of women in Pennsylvania. Planned Parenthood provides important health and welfare services for men and women."

The vote mirrors a battle that's been playing out nationally, as President Trump and Congressional Republicans target Planned Parenthood and other organizations that offer abortion services for women.

Another bill, Senate Bill 25 passed today 39-to-10. The bill would enable nurse practitioners to provide primary and specialized care to patients across Pennsylvania, especially those living in rural communities. "28 states [including Pennsylvania] prohibit nurse practitioners from prescribing buprenorphine unless they are working in collaboration with a doctor who also has a federal license to prescribe it," says the Pew Charitable Trusts Report. "The problem is, half of all counties in the U.S. do not have a single physician with a license to prescribe the buprenorphine."

Senate Bill will now move to the house for consideration.

Under the legislation, every nurse practitioner would be required to:

- Have a bachelor's degree
- Have a master's degree or doctorate
- Earn national certification
- Comply with the ongoing guidance and oversight of the State Board of Nursing
- Complete 3,600 hours and three years under the existing collaborative agreement mandate before being eligible for full practice authority