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Women's Center of Eastern CT

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March 19, 2018

My Name is Jeremy Bradley, Executive Director of Caring Families Pregnancy Services. I am writing this letter to notify all parties concerned that I am in opposition to H.B. 5416. As the Executive Director of this non-profit Organization that has provided help, care and support to women for over 31 years in Connecticut, I find this proposed bill dangerous on a couple of levels.

First, this bill is being proposed to restrict "false advertising" from Pregnancy Care Centers in Connecticut. While it seems "nice" to try and restrict deceptive advertising, the reality of the situation is this: There has been no reported or documented cases of any specific instances of False Advertising in Connecticut. Also, there are currently laws already on the books that are there to protect Connecticut residents from deceptive practices from all sorts of businesses and should be utilized. In addition, Pregnancy Care Centers, and only Pregnancy Care Centers are being "targeted" in the is legislation. While there are many other organizations that are crucial to providing woman care, Pregnancy Care Centers are the only institution being looked at. Why is that?

This is where the second dangerous part of the bill becomes apparent. H.B. 5416 is written in such a way to infringe on the Constitutional rights provided to citizens in our First Amendment. Many of the Pregnancy Care Centers nationwide are comprised of staff and volunteers who hold personal, religious and moral values, and having the State of Connecticut obtain power to restrict the personal speech and religious values of any organization is contrary to the shared values we all have as citizens. This Tuesday, March 20th, the Supreme Court of the United States will be listening to opening arguments around a law from California that is trying to control the speech of Pregnancy Care Centers similar to this legislation being proposed. Just as in Connecticut, the law in California leaves exempt all the other areas of women care) or basic care for anyone!) and focuses only on Pregnancy Care Centers. The law being proposed is politically motivated legislation written by those who not only support abortion but strongly opposes any organization and medical personal that for religious or personal convictions may not.

I would urge each and every one of Connecticut's representatives and senators to not only look into the good work the Pregnancy Care Centers in Connecticut have and are doing, but to visit and investigate these places yourselves. Talk with the hundreds of staff and volunteers, read the client testimonies, and discover that there is no issue of deception on the part of Pregnancy Care Center. I would also urge all to consider the alterative, were there's a very conservative legislation that was trying to restrict what Planned Parenthood could or could not say, where a "Pro Life" Attorney General would be responsible to decide what she or he thought were "false or deceptive". Liberty comes at a cost, and I urge each and every one who reads this letter understand that our American Liberty is well worth that cost. We must respect the responsibility and privilege we have to out speech and moral convictions.

Sincerely
Jeremy Bradley
Executive Director
Caring Families Pregnancy Services

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