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**HOUSE BILL 5416, AN ACT CONCERNING ADVERTISING PRACTICES OF LIMITED SERVICES PREGNANCY CENTERS.**

Representative Steinberg, Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Susan DeSilver. I live in Northford, Connecticut. I have not failed to vote in an election since I was able to register to vote. I am writing in support of proposed House Bill 5416, *An Act Concerning Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers*.

I am deeply concerned about the possible damage to pregnant women seeking all available options for addressing their pregnancies. Women may be deceptively lured into a clinic purporting to be a reproductive services clinic, when in fact, such so-called pregnancy crisis centers deny women accurate information about all options available and attempt to steer women away from actual reproductive health clinics.

These pregnancy crisis centers are not bound by laws to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patients; they could release a client's personal and medical information to an abusive parent, partner, or spouse.

These centers prey upon naïve young women who may think they are accessing a facility that can provide emergency contraception. Delays may cause this option to be unavailable, and in some cases, may miss the opportunity to receive a conventional early term abortion. Additionally, pregnancy crisis centers are unable to provide care for a woman with an ectopic pregnancy or a miscarriage.

Women facing an unexpected pregnancy are especially vulnerable and deserve to be protected from misleading advertising. In conclusion, I strongly support H.B. 5416 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of crisis pregnancy centers in our state. I urge the committee to move forward with H.B. 5416.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeSilver