

**Testimony for Public Hearing
Committee on Public Health
March 20, 2018**

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**HB 5416 AN ACT CONCERNING DECEPTIVE PRACTICES OF LIMITED
SERVICES PREGNANCY CENTERS**

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

My name is Jessica Greenebaum and I live in West Hartford. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I am here to show my support of HB5416 because I oppose the misleading advertising and deception used by CPCs. Many years ago as a college student I approached a table in the dining hall that was collecting "meal plans" to support their Crisis Pregnancy Center. I was very excited as I support a woman's choice to control her reproduction and I wanted to help other women in crisis. I did not know they were actively opposed to abortion or that they were connected to a Christian organization. When I later found out about their true intentions I was angry and ashamed that I was taken advantage of. Now I know giving them the equivalent of five dollars is not nearly as dangerous as going to them in search of accurate medical information and being deceived, but it is another example of how these organizations operate. If I, a savvy, college activists who was study gender studies and sociology, could be fooled who else is being harmed?

I volunteer my time as an escort to help patients navigate the pathway to avoid the CPC and access Hartford GYN. Many of these patients encounter protesters as they enter the space and are accosted by protesters and members of the local CPC as they leave. I hear them give false medical information and watch them block access to their car as they try to leave.

I support activism but I do not support people being deceived and blocked from accessing medical care.

In conclusion, I strongly support H.B. 5416 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of crisis pregnancy centers in our state. No matter personal feelings, I think we can all agree that no one should be deceived or misled when seeking healthcare. People in our state deserve honesty, and I urge the committee to move forward with H.B. 5416.

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Greenebaum, Ph.D.

