

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

**Donna Grossman
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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 Donna Grossman and I live in Windsor. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I had an abortion in the 1990's. It was not something I undertook lightly, but it was the right thing for me at that time and in that situation. I have never regretted my choice. And it was just that – **my** choice. It was me, and only me, who was going to have to raise this child and be his/her parent for the rest of his/her life. The father made it very clear that he was not going to be present. I already had three children with my ex-husband, and he was very involved with them. Having a fourth child who would not have any connection with a father was just too painful to imagine. People have abortions for many reasons, and these reasons are personal and important to them.

This bill is about transparency and honesty in advertising. When someone is seeking a clinic, they should be able to find one without confusion or deception. They are already making a very difficult decision, and absolutely no one else should make this decision more difficult. It is a threat to public health in our state when people are being deceived, delayed, or blocked in finding the reproductive healthcare they are seeking. Regardless of anyone's personal feelings about abortion, no one should be misled or lied to when they are seeking 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.

Donna Grossman