

**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 Benjamin Harvey and I live in Manchester, CT. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I write this testimony in alliance with women from all walks of life, who could just as easily be my own sisters, other relatives, friends, or coworkers. When a woman seeks reproductive health care services, I want to do my part to make sure that she does not fall victim to deceptive practices or is misled by false information into damaging her own health.

I cannot say that I have had any personal experience with these issues - not through friends or family, and certainly not through firsthand experience! But I don't need to - nor do I even need to be a woman myself - in order to know that deceiving women into sabotaging their own health, or curtailing their reproductive rights - which many of these crisis pregnancy centers seek to do - is morally wrong. This bill could easily affect the girls and women in our lives that we know and love. And it will have financial repercussions for the state as a whole if the reproductive health of nearly half of our state's population is jeopardized.

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.

Benjamin Harvey