

**Testimony for Public Hearing
Committee on Public Health
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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 Abby and I live in Hartford, Connecticut. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

As a healthcare worker, I am concerned at the consequences crisis pregnancy centers have on women and families seeking reproductive care in our state. CPCs deliberately confuse, mislead, and delay patients from making decisions regarding their health and their pregnancies, and are established to dissuade women, many of whom are young and low-income, from choosing abortion. Regardless of anyone's personal feelings on this issue, abortion is a legal right in Connecticut and the United States, and it is a threat to public health when people are purposely misled when they are seeking this medical care.

From their locations, which are often next to clinics that provide abortion services, to their names and deceptive advertising, crisis pregnancy centers specifically target young, low-income communities, who already face barriers to healthcare. They do not provide comprehensive medical services, yet they are advertised as clinics and position themselves right next to other medical providers, or in areas where there aren't any other providers. Their signs and advertisements can be very confusing for patients looking for reproductive health clinics in their neighborhoods.

CPCs are not bound by HIPAA and their deceptive practices allow a breach of privacy. For those faced with an unplanned pregnancy, CPCs can delay or discourage medical decisions, which are time-sensitive and personal to each patient. They also may be collecting personal medical history while patients think they are at a comprehensive reproductive health clinics. People deserve clear, accurate, and honest information about the medical services they are seeking.

In conclusion, I strongly support H.B. 5416 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of crisis pregnancy centers in our state. I hope this testimony will encourage the committee will move forward with H.B. 5416.

Thank you for your time.
Abby Hosley