



Testimony on H.B. 5416 "An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers"

Before the Public Health Committee

March 20, 2018

To whom it may concern:

My name is Reverend Christopher Hurtado and I am an Associate Pastor at Bethel Christian Church in Bristol, Connecticut. Bethel Christian Church has been a long time supporter of a few the fine pregnancy resource centers in our great state. Throughout the years of support, I along with my staff has had the opportunity to see the work first hand in these women's center and we couldn't be more pleased with how professional these organizations handle their clients and those seeking help in time of need. One of those resources centers is ABC Women's Center in Middletown, Connecticut. ABC is an organization that the women of Middletown and the rest of Connecticut need. They care for every person that walks through their doors and aids in both education and material assistance well after the birth of a women's child, all at no cost to the parents.

I want to make it clear that the organization I represent and myself firmly oppose the H.B. 5416 bill proposed here in Connecticut. This bill is nothing but an attack on quality organizations with legitimate medical professionals who want nothing more than to help women during their pregnancies. These centers are pro-women and pro-life and at no point during a visit do they try to deceive women in thinking otherwise. They also make it clear they do not perform or refer for abortions. The reality is that women have many choices to make regarding their pregnancy and these women's centers aid in helping women make educated and informed decisions that will help in a healthy birth of their child. This bill would greatly impact the women of Connecticut in a negative way by taking away quality resources that educate women and aid in healthy pregnancies. These centers are vital to their communities and provide many forms of help all at no cost to women or to the state. I urge the legislators of Connecticut to vote NO on bill H.B. 5416. Thank you for taking time to read this testimony.

Sincerely,
Rev. Christopher Hurtado
Bethel Christian Church