

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

**Samantha McCarthy
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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 Samantha McCarthy 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.

I support this bill because I believe that regardless of one's opinion on abortions, no one deserves to be lied to or deceived when seeking health care. As a college student, I worry about the deceptive practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers and the risks they pose to women my age. Young people are especially susceptible to the deceptive practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers. When we are seeking medical care, we are unlikely to be with our family members or other adults with more experience. I have personally experienced feeling uncertain, alone, and intimidated when seeking medical care as a college student even without the misleading practices of a Crisis Pregnancy Center. The deceptive practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers coupled with inexperience cause me to fear for young people who may be seeking reproductive health care. Crisis Pregnancy Centers target areas with college aged students and mimic the appearance of licensed women's clinics to take advantage of women my age. It is important that as young women in college, we are able to find real reproductive health care when we are looking for it. I am thankful that I am educated on the intentions of Crisis Pregnancy Centers so that I can steer my friends in the right direction should they find themselves needing care. However, I am not able to direct all young people and more importantly, no one should need to. I urge you to support this very important and necessary bill so that young women like myself and all women in general can find the services that they desire without being misled or lied to.