

**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 Karen Needham and I live in North Granby. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I have spent the past year escorting clients to the Hartford GYN Center, a licensed family planning and abortion clinic, in Hartford, Connecticut.

My first visit to the GYN center, I commented on the sign listing another business, The Hartford Women's Center. I said, "That's great, if women need to talk about their concerns, they have a place to go." Unfortunately, I realized quickly the intent of this organization was about confusing women and stopping them from having an abortion. I was confused. I see clients of the legitimate clinic who are confused about where to go on a regular basis. They don't know that the crisis pregnancy center not the place to go for their abortion.

I remember one young lady being confused, walked up to the crisis pregnancy center door, since it was locked, she looked perplexed and was looking around, I helped her find her way to the legitimate clinic she was looking for. This caused this client more anxiety after she had already received a barrage of information from the line of sidewalk protesters outside.

Being a Licensed Master Social worker, this deceptive information is very harmful to our clients. They are already confused and scared by sidewalk protesters. To be further misled by the signs and advertisements is wrong. They made appointments at a real clinic, and they should be able to find where to go without being confused.

In conclusion, I strongly support H.B. 5416 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of crisis pregnancy centers in our state. Women in our state, just like the clients I help every week, deserve honesty. I urge the committee to move forward with H.B. 5416.

Thank you,
Karen Needham