

**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 Lauren Pizzoferrato and I live in Wethersfield. I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Organization for Women. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

CT NOW is a pro-choice organization, and we believe true reproductive choice can only exist without coercion. Women already face a host of constraints when choosing whether or not to take a pregnancy to term. These constraints include the state of their finances, whether or not they have the support of a healthy partner, their own physical health and their religious beliefs.

For that reason it is a public health issue should any women be denied this crucial choice because they have been deceived into receiving services from an organization that does not support their belief system.

If a woman is seeking an abortion they should not be confused about where to get that care. HB5416 protects women from deception during what may be a difficult time during her life. It also lessens any delays should she need time sensitive services such as emergency contraception or prenatal care.

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

Thank you for your time.

Lauren Pizzoferrato