

**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 Claire Pritchard and I live in Hartford, CT. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

When a person is seeking healthcare, they should never be deceived or delayed from getting that care. Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) do just that, misleading and lying to patients, threatening their health and the health of our communities. Any organization may provide services, but they must be clear on what they are.

When applied specifically to reproductive healthcare, this becomes even more important. A patient's decisions become time sensitive, and when CPCs deliberately delay services, this can result in serious harm. A patient may miss their opportunity for certain treatments as a direct result of CPCs policies.

Because CPCs are not regulated by the state, they are not required to keep patient-provider confidentiality. Patients seeking care have a right to keep their information confidential, especially because most patients at CPCs are likely seeking reproductive health clinics and are being misled.

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.

Claire Pritchard