

I am writing today on behalf of the Hope Pregnancy Center (HPC) located in Cheshire, CT as well as in support of all other pregnancy centers in CT. As a father of 4 children and concerned citizen of the state of CT, I find the premise of HB-5416 that is currently under consideration to be unfair and unjust. Over the past 3+ years I have seen how the Hope Pregnancy center in Cheshire has provided a caring environment to those pregnant women who are looking for help and support in their decisions about their pregnancy. They provide education, clothing, toys, coaching to help these families in what to many is a time of confusion and concern. HPC has always acted with the utmost integrity and clarity in the communication and representation of their mission and direction. I have never seen, heard or read anything that would remotely be construed to be deceptive or dishonest in how they interact with their clients. HB-5416 is a means to establish a muzzle on these organizations in pursuing their constitutional rights as an organization that offers options for families who are trying to make difficult decisions about life. I urge the Committee on Public Health to reject the passage of HB-5416

Michael Ritchie