

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

To me, this is not an issue about pro-life or pro-choice, but rather about what is right and what is wrong. It is wrong to mislead, and it is wrong to lie to someone. Especially when it comes to their reproductive health. I am fortunate enough to be aware of the misleading advertising employed by CPCs. So, when I picture someone coming upon a CPC, I do not picture myself.

I picture my 14-year-old sister trying to get emergency contraception and being denied and told blatant lies about what it could do to her body solely because she walked into what she thought was a medical facility.

I picture my cousin who is not fluent in English, who might see the sign asking her if she's pregnant and if she needs help. I think of her walking into what she thinks is a clinic and being told lies about how an abortion is incredibly likely to end in death.

I think of my mother, who has had an abortion, being told false information about how her years-old abortion can cause deadly diseases.

I think about the women in my community being told lies about the pill and about condoms.

Lastly, I think about the people using these deceptive practices. People who do not live in my community, trying to trick and deceive people into doing what they think is right; what they think is best for a community they do not live in. It is so unbelievably disheartening.

And this is why we have to stop it. So that people in this community can make the right decision for themselves once they are told the facts. The true facts regarding their reproductive health.

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.

Alisha Soto