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Testimony on  
H.B. 5416 "An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers"  
Before the Public Health Committee  
March 20, 2018

Regarding HB-5416-CGA-CT.gov, concerning deceptive advertising practices of limited services pregnancy centers, I beseech you to explore and become informed on *both* sides of this very emotional and contentious issue before placing your vote. *The loudest voice isn't always right.*

I have been a "client advocate" in one of those centers for over three years, seeing first-hand the good works these centers do for women and children in need. I can say without equivocation that from my own personal experiences, there are no deceptive practices, undue pressure, or guilt placed upon our clients. Some clients choose life and some don't, but we welcome and serve them all – before and after they make their own personal decisions regarding pregnancy.

Because I believe there is a lot of misinformation surrounding this issue, I respectfully ask you today:

*Have you ever visited one of our centers?  
Met with one of our directors?  
Talked with one of our clients?*

*Before you make your decision to limit the rights of our centers, I implore you to spend some time in conversation with one of our directors or one of the wonderful women who come to our centers for our services.*

**Please take the time to hear both sides of this controversial issue,** before you take steps to limit even one of these compassionate and generous organizations. We provide free material resources, parenting classes, referrals to community services, and emotional support to women and children in need in our state and across the country. If you only spent some time with us, you would see .... our clients love us.

*It would be an injustice to vote based on one-sided, biased, and deceptive information, and having seen some of the things that have been written and said about our pregnancy care centers, I know there are many falsehoods being disseminated about us.*

I wholeheartedly believe if you hear and see the **truth** for yourself, you will be convinced in the value our centers bring to the women and children in the State of Connecticut, and I believe you will be less likely to take steps to limit our good work.

Mary Sullivan  
Bolton, CT