

**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 **Jonathan Terluk** and I live in North Stonington. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I support this bill because I believe that Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) represent an unnecessary threat to the health of Connecticut communities. Because CPCs present themselves as women's health institutions but do not offer the services typically associated with such a facility, they both pose a danger to public health and partake in deceptive practices.

By deceptively labeling themselves in manners that suggest that they are medical facilities these facilities partake in activities that are effectively fraudulent and, in doing so, attract individuals into their locations before presenting them with little to no medical advice and instead imposing non-medical views onto these individuals to coerce them into changing their intentions to undergo any number of medical procedures.

By limiting the ability of these facilities to label themselves in manners that imply that they are medical facilities, the State of Connecticut would demonstrate that it is concerned with women's health and that of the public. It also demonstrates that the State of Connecticut demands transparency and honesty in advertising.

As mentioned, my main concern on this subject rests on the fact that by misleading those entering these facilities, the health of people throughout the state is endangered. When individuals believe they are seeking medical advice, but are, in fact, receiving opinions, they not only do not receive the care that they are entitled to, but also fail to obtain medical advice that considers their own health history and all possible options.

While there are exist varying opinions on the right of women to access abortions, my concern with this subject does not lay in ensuring that women have access to such procedures. Rather, and most importantly, my concern is with the active deception that these facilities undertake.

In conclusion, I strongly support H.B. 5416 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of crisis pregnancy centers in our state. No matter personal feelings, I think we can all agree that no one should be deceived or misled when seeking healthcare. People in our state deserve honesty, and I urge the committee to move forward with H.B. 5416.

Thank you for your time.

Jonathan Terluk