

**Testimony for Public Hearing  
Committee on Public Health  
March 20, 2018**

William  
Thorne

**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 William Thorne and I live in Ledyard, CT. I am testifying in opposition of H.B. 5416 "An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers".

My main concern is the purpose of this proposed legislation. Connecticut currently has consumer protection laws on the books which address false and deceptive advertising (ref: Connecticut Regulation 42-110b-18). The wording in this regulation, while broad, is very similar to the wording in HB 5416 and cover both services and merchandise.

I cannot help but note another bill you are hearing today (Raised Bill 402) which has very specific language on what a doctor must achieve to advertise as being "Board Certified". HB 5416 has no such specific language and as a result of its vagueness, could lead to undue hardship and legal costs on the part of the Pregnancy Centers, defending themselves against the power and unlimited resources of the Attorney General.

In summary, I have to question the purpose of this bill. Given the vague wording of HB 5416 and current regulations against false and descriptive advertising, I have to assume the purpose of this very targeted bill is to make it so difficult for Pregnancy Centers to operate in Connecticut that they will cease to exist leaving abortion providers as the only alternative.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns;

Bill Thorne