

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

**Alejandra Zapparoli
61 Chevas Rd.,
Avon, CT 06001**

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 Alejandra Zapparoli and I live in Avon. I testify in strong support of H.B. 5416 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I am an occasional volunteer as an abortion clinic escort at a clinic in Hartford that is just a few feet away from a Crisis Pregnancy Center. I have witnessed first-hand the confusion that these centers try to create, by luring patients into their center instead of the real clinic, only to be given medically inaccurate information about abortion.

These crisis pregnancy centers do not have medical professionals that take into account the person's medical history before giving irresponsible and inaccurate information. They do not know if perhaps the patient seeking an abortion has an ectopic pregnancy or has a medical condition that can make their pregnancy life threatening for example. They purposely tell patients that abortions can be reversed. That abortion can cause cancer. And many more lies. They try to scare women from carrying on with a medical procedure that they have made a personal and often difficult decision on.

Numerous investigations have been conducted by undercover journalists all over the country going into these sites and they all confirm a pattern of deception, by making women think they are going for an abortion, only to be lied and shamed for seeking a legal medical procedure that they have every right to have.

A person seeking medical care of any kind should not have to worry about whether the clinic they are going to is a legitimate medical facility, despite the fact that that's the way they are advertised. If a person chooses to seek any form of alternative to proper medicine, they have every right to do so, but they should be properly informed and aware that the facility they are visiting isn't licensed to provide medical treatment.

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.

Alejandra Zapparoli