

To Whom It May Concern:

I am In opposition to **S.B. 835, the Anti-Pregnancy Center Bill. I believe that people chose limited service pregnancy centers based on personal belief. When I had my second pregnancy, I expressed that I had not planned this pregnancy and that the timing stunk. My mother was going through Chemo, I had a 9 month old, I was in school and a whole bunch of factors in my life were not aligned with my reality. As an adult, I accepted that I was responsible for my actions as a woman and wife and that I needed to take responsibility and have my now 4year old son. I wavered when a medical professional who was pro abortion/choice told me how wonderful the choice to have an abortion was for her. She mentioned how had she had her child she would not be where she is now. She sounded proud of her choice.**

I want to start by making it clear that I respect pro choicers and understand their reason for deciding that parenthood isn't for them is personal and difficult.

Personally, I was raised Catholic & consider myself Christian. I feel that personal choice is personal. I thanked her for sharing them requested that that individual not share her views with me again. I felt uncomfortable because what I considered harmless venting was taken as something else entirely. With the many things going on I felt vulnerable, hormonal and offended that she would even ask or mention this after I had shared my personal trials at that point. I mentioned, before I dismissed her, that I was Christian and my husband would be devastated if I ever made such a decision. She responded by saying he didn't need to know!

I am pro life personally but pro choice on a philosophical level. It is my opinion that to silence organizations because one doesn't agree and penalizing them for advertising their opposition or support of services that are elective is wrong. Forcing and penalizing medical facilities for not offering abortion services to the woman who chooses to put her health in the hands of likeminded pro life medical personnel and facilities is wrong! Which would bring to mind the opposite but equivalent example of refusing pro choice medical services to individuals who would consider the abortion of their pregnancy as being equally wrong.

The point of my long narrative is that people need to live and let live. The State of Connecticut has no more right telling a medical facility holding a particular religious affiliation how to provide their multifaceted religious and medical services to their clients anymore than the Church has the right to stop a secular medical practice from providing services like abortion.

People specifically go to religious affiliated practices because they don't want the pressure or temptation to do something they may regret during a vulnerable time in their lives. To penalize medical practices because one cannot stomach taking a baby's /fetus's life and chooses to only give life is very biased, extremely partial and morally questionable. Don't silence or penalize these practices as they are a sanctuary for those whose beliefs do not align with the secular world. We can tolerate and understand, though we often disagree, with many secular practices. Please be as tolerant as we attempt to be with the many changes that are taking place in our society. We must compromise in matters such as these.

Sincerely,
A. Izquierdo