

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Susanna Bennett and I oppose SB 835.

I feel that there is a key issue at the core of all this that is being skirted, and I'd like to address it. The bill starts with it, so I'd like to start with it too.

The bill states that "Abortion means the termination of a pregnancy for purposes other than producing a live birth. Abortion includes, but is not limited to, a termination of a pregnancy using pharmacological agents."

Abortion is at the core of this bill. It is at the core of what is motivating those who support the bill, and those who oppose it. I think some people don't want to actually say that, but I think that's what this is really about.

We have to understand where we all are coming from.

Many of those who support this bill believe that abortion is simply the termination of a pregnancy, and that abortion is not a deliberate act of ending a human life. Therefore, they believe that access to abortion is acceptable and even imperative. They believe that access to abortion serves and supports women. This is what they believe.

Many of those who oppose this bill believe that life begins at conception, and that abortion is a deliberate act of ending a human life. Therefore, they believe that access to abortion is not a human right, but a denial of a human right. They believe that abortion terminates a baby and is harmful to women. This is what they believe.

I hope everyone here can respect where everyone else is coming from. We all want to help and empower women. I believe that is true. When I see where the pregnancy care centers are coming from, what they actually believe, I can understand why they cannot perform or refer for abortions. I can also understand why they respectfully tell their clients where they are coming from.

It is also important to understand that being against abortion does not mean being against abortion-minded people. The goal of a pregnancy resource center is to preserve and value life, and that includes valuing not just the unborn child's life, but the mother's life as well.

Pregnancy care centers *are* serving men and women in Connecticut, and helping them understand all of their options so they can make an informed decision. These centers truly care about the women they serve, and have nothing to gain by being deceptive. They are not engaging in any type of deceptive behavior, therefore is no valid reason for this bill, and I ask you to please oppose SB 835. Thank you.