

My legal name is Josephine Bittner, and my nickname is Jo Ann. I most intensely and unremittingly am opposed to SB 835. I am upset and angry that this proposed bill targets faith base pregnancy resource centers by saying that they use deceptive practices in their advertising. This is the fourth year in a row that this has been brought up with no supportive facts that this is true.

Again the question is to the writer and proponents of this bill, and to this committee, is – where is the factual and substantive evidence that a client seeking services at pregnancy resource centers are being lied to or deceived? There are no complaints about this on the ABC Women’s Center client reviews. When asked by a caller over the phone or by a person in the center, if we do or refer for abortions, the answer is always “no, we do not do or refer for abortions.” Once again, where is the deception?

Another question for the committee members – Have you ever visited a pregnancy resource center to see what information they give clients and how they do things? I have volunteered at ABC for over 15 years, and I can honestly say that I have Never deceived or lied to a client over the phone or when they come in for an appointment. Women that come in to the center receive factual knowledge that will empower them to make an informed decision. All the services offered are free to any client. There is no taxpayer money involved.

This bill assumes that women with an unplanned pregnancy are not interested in other options and abortion alternatives. Such women may feel that they have to face the decision alone concerning their unplanned pregnancy, and that there are No options opened to them regarding their next steps. The pregnancy resource centers come along side these women at such a time as this with factual information.

This bill is targeting the faith based pregnancy resource centers. There are laws already in place to regulate deceptive advertising. Check for yourself that there is no deceptive advertising put forth by these centers. This bill is totally unnecessary. Do not vote bill SB 385 out of committee. Thank you.