



February 6th, 2021 Re. In opposition of SB 835

Dear Public Health Committee,

My name is Robin Brown BSN RN, I am the Medical Services Manager of ABC Women's Center in Middletown and am speaking in opposition to SB 835

There is no need for SB 835

There have been zero claims from any pregnancy center clients claiming to have been misled by our advertising. The State has not identified even one legitimate person who suffered any of the harms that the SB 835 purports to protect against. All of the members of the Pregnancy Coalition have websites that clearly state that they do not perform or refer for abortion and explains why and how their services are beneficial to those considering abortion. Our pregnancy centers have always upheld the highest standards of integrity and truthfulness with their clients and the public.

Pregnancy Centers provide competent, compassionate care to their clients, for free. Women making a pregnancy decision should have a safe place to go that does not profit from any medical procedures resulting from that decision. Women are smart. Those that walk through our doors are happy they did because they receive the love, support and services they need to make an informed decision regarding their pregnancies. Our customer satisfaction rate is 99% based on client exit surveys. Pregnancy centers do good – and all at a savings for the state's taxpayers. Even if a woman chooses abortion, we are still there for her and we do not make a profit off of her. All legislative members have an open invitation to visit any of our pregnancy centers to see all the great work they do for the citizens of Connecticut.

SB 835 Violates Basic Fairness Under The Law

Pregnancy centers have been maliciously targeted by this legislation for political gain. It invents a new category called "limited services pregnancy center" and defines that as a pregnancy services center "that does not provide referrals to clients abortions or emergency contraception." This completely and unfairly exempts centers that provide or refer these services targeting only those who are life-affirming.

SB 835 Engages in Viewpoint Discrimination

There are no objective parameters for determining what must be excluded or included in a given advertisement to avoid being accused of deceptive advertising. This is a recipe for opinion suppression which is a direct violation of the First Amendment. The fines of up to \$500 per violation plus attorneys fees and costs sends a chilling message to non-profit pregnancy centers.

SB835 is totally unnecessary. Connecticut already has a false advertising law that could be utilized if any pregnancy centers were deceptively advertising: [Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act \(CUTPA\) § 42-110a](#) and [§ 42-110b](#) which prohibits, among other things, unfair and deceptive advertising. HB 7070 targets small life-affirming nonprofits and is totally unnecessary. It is just a publicity stunt for those that oppose our life affirming values.

Please vote NO on SB 835.

Sincerely with Gratitude

Robin Brown RN, BSN