



Testimony in opposition to S.B. 835

Crisis Pregnancy centers exist to serve women and families who are facing difficult pregnancies due for any reason, whether it is financial pressure, medical questions, coercion from the father or family to abort, or a lack of knowledge in prenatal or parenting care or other pregnancy matter. They exist out of concern for the mother and child and provide access to care and services based on the self evident dignity of both.

A theme you will hear from nearly every supporter of S.B. 835 today is “End the Lies!”. Hearing those 3 words repeatedly might seem persuasive. There will be oft repeated tales of pro life zealots pretending to be medical professionals in this telling. But consider how strange this claim is since that particular deception is a crime and they can’t find much less convict the guilty parties. Please ask why they don’t.

For supporters of S.B. 835, any belief that the unborn child is a human life is the “Lie” they speak of. No pro-lifers that I know of want to control a woman’s body. They are concerned with the integrity of another person’s body. No one should deny that pregnancy is a unique kind of relationship, but it is, nevertheless, a relationship between two bodies. The science is clear but you will not hear any “Follow the Science” themes from the supporters of S.B. 835.

A legislator once told me that one of the questions that he considers is how a new statute would be used by those who would seek to manipulate it for their own agenda. That is good advice here. The very question of offering services which are an alternative to abortion are left to the interpretation of people, some of whom have stated for the record that such services are anti-woman and punishable as a hate crime. Now you will hear no such rhetoric from S.B. 835's supporters today. But when this bill is law and they are making the decisions on what constitutes deceptive speech, can they be trusted to respect the freedom to express what they consider hate? S.B. 835 will curtail freedom of speech and freedom of religious expression. It and all like bills need to be soundly rejected.

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