

Statement in **SUPPORT** of ***Raised Bill No. 835, An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.***

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 10, 2021

To the chairs and members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Amy Ewing, and I live in Stamford, CT. This statement represents my own personal views, but I join Secular Connecticut and NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut in strong support of Bill 835, An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I am submitting this testimony because I am concerned for women and families in my community. Anyone seeking a pregnancy clinic, she should be able to find one without confusion or deception. I voiced my support last year, too, when the pandemic cut the legislative session short.

I understand that any organization can choose which services to provide, but it should be clear to people what those services are. It is a threat to public health in our state when people are being deceived, delayed or blocking in finding the reproduction healthcare they are seeking. If a pregnancy center is not going to provide – or even mention – abortion as an option, it should use a name that reflects that (ex: “Birthright Center” might work) and it needs to use clear and honest advertising of the services it provides.

I also find it disturbing that limited service women's health centers are generally – and I assume intentionally – located in low income communities.

Regardless of anyone's personal feelings about abortion, I think we can all agree that no one should be misled or lied to when they are seeking medical care.

I strongly support Raised Bill 835 to stop the deceptive advertising practices of limited-service crisis pregnancy centers in our state. Please pass this legislation.

Thank you,
Amy Ewing
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