

Wednesday, January 27th, 2021

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Marissa Fagerquist. I am a resident of Connecticut and I work in a pregnancy center in Massachusetts. I am writing to you today in opposition of S.B. No. 835. It is my understanding the pregnancy centers in Connecticut are being accused of false advertising. I would like to know the exact accusations with specific examples. I personally have never seen false advertisements from any pregnancy center agency in Connecticut. The advertising I have seen is always very honest and focuses on the confidential, professional, medical services provided by the center. I have also seen clearly stated on the centers' websites that they do not refer for or perform abortions. There is no false advertisement to be found.

I have personally visited ABC Women's Center in Middletown and Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center in Stamford. The staff were professional, kind, and compassionate. The office spaces were clean, professional, and met medical standards. The advertising within the office is also honest and not misleading to patients. I would urge each member of the committee to reach out to the pregnancy centers and schedule a visit, look online at the centers' websites and advertising to truly see what good these centers do.

I am writing to you because I am concerned for the women and couples in our communities whom these centers serve. Individuals are served without discrimination regarding age, race, religious affiliation, gender identity, etc. Services are provided all at no cost to their patients and insurance is not required. Please, visit these offices and you will see that these centers are being unjustly targeted and attacked without proper grounds of accusations.

Respectfully,

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