

Leia Fecteau
1523 Chapel St #405, New Haven CT 06511

S.B. 835 AN ACT CONCERNING DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING PRACTICES OF LIMITED SERVICES PREGNANCY CENTERS.

Distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is **Leia Fecteau** and I live in **New Haven**. I testify in strong support of S.B. 835, An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

I am a medical student at the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine class of 2021, hoping to practice in Women's Health in the future. This bill is important to me as a future medical provider because I believe all my patients deserve unbiased, correct, and prompt information before making a tough healthcare decision, regardless of whether they are pregnant.

Pregnant women are faced with many tough decisions, and may seek out support from friends, family, religiously-based counselors, or licensed medical providers that practice evidence-based medicine. Every center that cares about women and their health has a place in our community, but they should all be subject to the same regulations to keep our community members safe.

I'm concerned that there are centers in my community that are not clear about the pregnancy services they offer, and are providing medical advice and performing diagnostic imaging in the absence of appropriately licensed providers and regulations, like those protecting the confidentiality of personal and health information. I would like there to be protections in place to eliminate confusion and deceptive advertising and promote transparent and honest care, so that women can pick a pregnancy support center that best meets their needs.

Deceptive advertising delays time-sensitive care and directly impacts the safety of all pregnant women in our community, especially those that have the lowest income and are most vulnerable. If a woman is not able to access emergency contraception within 72 hours it will be ineffective. The earlier a woman has access to comprehensive pre-natal care, the earlier that she and her healthcare provider may identify any health problems regarding her pregnancy, including a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy that may require immediate medical attention. If a woman decides that she would like an abortion, any delay in receiving this care may mean she has to pay up to four to eight times more¹ and, although serious complications occur in fewer than 1% of abortions, there is an increased risk of complications with a later term procedure².

In conclusion, I strongly support S.B. 835 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of limited service pregnancy centers in our state. I urge the committee to move forward with S.B. 835 to protect all pregnant CT state residents can receive truthful and transparent education and support when they are seeking reproductive healthcare.

Thank you for your time,
Leia Fecteau

1. Roberts, S. C., Gould, H., Kimport, K., Weitz, T. A., & Foster, D. G. (2014). Out-of-Pocket Costs and Insurance Coverage for Abortion in the United States. *Womens Health Issues, 24*(2). doi:10.1016/j.whi.2014.01.003

2. The safety and quality of abortion care in the United States. (2018). Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.