

Dear Public Health Committee,

I write to you as a member of the Middletown Common Council and concerned citizen urging you to oppose S.B. 835. I submit this written testimony on behalf of my experience interacting with the staff and visiting the facility of ABC Women's Center in Middletown on several occasions. ABC Women's Center has long been a resource for women and families in Middletown. They provide help for woman who are going through pregnancy and offer accurate information that can be helpful to women who have questions regarding adoption, parenting, abortion and post abortive services. There isn't anything I've come across in researching their website or social media presence that is "deceptive". Neither have I found anything of such nature in my visits to the facility or when speaking with staff members. In my interactions with ABC's staff, these individuals have come across as genuinely concerned about the well-being of women within our community who come to them seeking help, while at the same time maintaining a level of transparency that builds trust. There are women within my community who have worked with ABC who believe ABC is a helpful friend. ABC Women's Center helps women and infants who are underserved and may lack adequate resources by providing infant clothing, diapers, and other necessities to them. The center collects donations in order to continue providing these resources to women and infants in need instead of allowing these necessities to go to waste. From what I understand, ABC Women's Center has done nothing to be placed under the scrutiny of the state government for "deceptive advertising". How will that term, "deceptive advertising" be interpreted if this bill is passed? I fear that this bill would give the state the power to punish pregnancy centers for what they may deem as "deceptive advertising" in a scenario where there isn't any deceptive advertising occurring. As you discuss this bill, please consider ABC Women's Center in Middletown for the work they do, the level of transparency they keep and the impact they have in women's lives who seek their help. Thank you for your consideration and for hearing my testimony on this issue.

Respectfully,

Edward Ford, Jr.

Member of the Middletown, CT Common Council