

Testimony for Public Hearing
Committee on Public Health
February 10, 2021

Sarah Ganong
Hartford, CT

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

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Sarah Ganong, and I'm from Hartford. Thanks for the chance to write to you today. I testify in strong support of S.B. 835 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

This bill is about honesty and transparency in advertising. When someone is seeking medical care of any kind, they should be able to find one without confusion or deception -- that's no different than seeking reproductive care. It's been widely documented that CPCs target low income people, people of color, and those with limited access to healthcare, including members of the undocumented community. As a Hartford resident, my community and my neighbors have been consistent targets of deceptive advertising practices in the past, and it's clear that these practices will not stop without passage of Senate Bill 835 this year.

Public health is threatened when folks are deceived or delayed in attempts to access the time-sensitive reproductive healthcare they seek. And in a moment when disinformation about healthcare is swirling even more vigorously than usual due to the COVID-19 pandemic and anti-vaccine movement, Connecticut has the chance to stand at the forefront and speak up against disinformation and misdirection. As members of this committee, I hope you will take that chance and pass Senate Bill 835.

In conclusion, I strongly support S.B. 835 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of crisis pregnancy centers in our state. I urge the committee to move forward with S.B. 835 .

Thank you for your time.

Sarah