



February 2021

Testimony in **opposition** to S.B. No.835
"An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices Of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers."

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Adrienne Greto and I have the privilege of serving as Executive Director at Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Centers. I am writing in **vehement** opposition to S.B. No. 835 "An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices Of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers." It is clear that this legislation was written in an attempt to maliciously attack the work of pregnancy centers in Connecticut.

For over 34 years Hopeline PRC has served thousands of community members by offering life affirming services at no cost. Our presence in Bridgeport, Danbury, and Stamford have been vital for women who have sought out abortion alternatives. By providing these services with no monetary incentive, we have been able to help support low income, immigrant, and minority populations to name a few.

I am alarmed that a fourth attempt to pass this legislation has been brought forth, after it has been wisely dismissed in the past. To my knowledge, there have been no complaints from any clients/patients who we have served. We are diligent to avoid deceptive practices, we provide accurate medical information from our licensed medical staff, and share truth about the services we offer.

On multiple occasions we have extended invitations to public health committee members to visit our centers to see first hand how we operate. Unfortunately, our attempt to share truth has been met with silence as no members of the public health committee have responded with a desire to visit. I am deeply concerned that we have representatives in place that would write legislation without doing due diligence by visiting our centers to learn the truth. Health committee members, I implore you to not just listen to the words that we're saying but to do your own research.

It is essential that women and families in our state have access to abortion alternatives **especially** during a global pandemic. We have found that many women and families who choose to parent have lost jobs and are even more in need of the resources we provide. *I don't know of any abortion clinics that support women and their children should they choose to parent. Do you? Does NARAL empower women by offering parenting support?* By providing the services we do, we are empowering women & families who have chosen parenthood. They don't have to go through it alone. We have been a constant support during this pandemic and don't intend to stop anytime soon. Pursuing legislation that intentionally smears the names of pregnancy centers and the positive work that we do is irresponsible and harmful to our communities.

I strongly urge the committee to vote **NO** on S.B. No. 835. If hostile legislation like the one proposed continues to surface in CT, women and families in our communities will suffer in our absence.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Greto CNA, MPS

Executive Director | Hopeline Pregnancy Centers | Fairfield County, CT