

February 9th, 2021

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I'm writing to you today in the hopes that you will hear the words of all the people you represent. Specifically, in regards to my opposition of S.B. No. 835.

I think we can all agree that when it comes to the life of a child, whether planned or unplanned, a woman has the right to know what all her options are.

Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Center is a faith-based organization that seeks to do just that. They firmly believe a woman should have access to all of their options and all the facts in order to make an informed decision on the life of their child.

The general language used in S.B. No. 835 has put pregnancy centers such as Hopeline at risk. HopeLine has been targeted countless times for false advertising, being accused that they advertise for abortions, but do not perform them. If you take a second to look at their site, it is crystal clear that they provide information on abortions, but as a faith-based organization do **not** perform abortions. Though time and time again Hopeline has been targeted. There is not a single accusation against HopeLine that I have found to have any merit, but simply comes from opinions, outside sources and a blatant disregard of educating yourself from HopeLine's site directly.

I believe that any pregnancy center should be held to the same standards of providing women with **all** the facts in order to make an informed decision on their pregnancy.

A dear friend of mine, at a young age, found herself pregnant, scared and unsure where to turn to. She went into Planned Parenthood to see what her options were. The people she spoke to at Planned Parenthood did not give her all the facts and made her believe she had no other way out, but to abort her child. The physical pain that she experienced in the immediate aftermath and the trauma she has experienced in all the years since, it's unimaginable.

I wonder, if my friend had been given all the facts or if she had been encouraged that there are other options, maybe things would have been different. If she knew that in addition to aborting her child, she had been informed that adoption was an option. If she knew that in addition to aborting her child, she had been informed that she was not alone and there were countless resources to help young, single mothers in the community. What would have been different? What pain could she have been saved from?

Hopeline and other pregnancy centers in CT are being targeted and kept from doing just that.

Giving women the right, that they so dearly deserve, to make a fully informed decision on not only the life of their child, but also a decision that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Whatever people believe, the choice of abortion should never be taken lightly.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you hear all those you represent and stand with me in opposition of S.B. No. 835.

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