

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in opposition of SB 835, An Act Concerning Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

My name is Molly Hurtado and I served as Executive Director of ABC Women's Center from 2014 – 2019. As Executive Director, I was chiefly responsible for ensuring my Center upheld the highest code of ethics and care in all of our departments including client services, medical services, marketing, and advertising, among others. I was the sole writer of all of our website content and have made myself available at all four previous public hearings to answer any questions regarding our website content and/or marketing materials. Not once, did a Public Health committee member ask any clarifying questions. I always found that odd. Why wouldn't the committee members ask the person responsible for the website and marketing content questions regarding the very material they were calling into question? The silence was deafening. After four years of testifying I have concluded, it appears the intent of this bill has little to do with alleged public health violations and more with the private interests of members of this committee.

Accusing an organization of "false advertisement" is a serious offense. This is why we have state laws such as the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act in place to protect residents from such a crime. In the four years that this bill has surfaced, there have been no verified reports by pregnancy center clients in the state of Connecticut of false advertising. And yet, pro-choice legislators deem this legislation a public health necessity. They are trying to regulate an issue that does not exist.

The role of the public health committee is to respond to reports of public health violations. Year after year, the Public Health Committee has heard countless hours of testimony both for and against this bill. And in four years, no verified violations have been reported. Therefore, why is this bill necessary? Simply put, this legislation is not necessary and is a reflection of gross negligence of the purpose of this committee.

This bill is a waist of our time as constituents, a waste of time of those who serve at these pregnancy centers, and a waste of time of the Public Health Committee members to continue to hear testimony on a bill that is unnecessary.

Please vote no on SB 835.

Sincerely,

Molly Hurtado
Former Executive Director of ABC Women's Center in Middletown, CT

