

February 9, 2021

Dear Public Health Committee,

I am writing to you as a very concerned citizen of the state of Connecticut. As one who represents the needs of the people without bias, I write to ask that you consider opposing the S.B. No. 835 for the reasons that I will provide below.

1. I know firsthand that pregnancy centers, such as the ABC Women's Center in Middletown, help vulnerable women at a very difficult time in their lives when they're facing a pregnancy for which they may not be ready or prepared for. The services they provide have helped to turn a crisis pregnancy into a journey facilitated by compassionate and practical support. Many women and babies have literally been helped because of their commitment to love and serve.
2. The bill is all about false advertising, and I would ask what evidence you have that there has been any dishonesty on the part of ABC or any centers? ABC's website states clearly what they do and don't do. <https://abcwomenscenter.org/options/abortion/>
3. The website states that they provide abortion information and at the bottom it says they do not perform or refer for abortions. Accusing pregnancy centers of being dishonest without proof is hindering their services and hurting their good reputation in this city and our state. It is negatively impacting the most vulnerable women in our communities.
4. Do you know of any clients in Middletown who have stated that they were manipulated by the ABC Women's Center? Where is the evidence that there have been women hurt by the center's work?
5. I can assure you that the ABC Women's Center is honest and ethical in all its practices. How will honest and upstanding centers like theirs be protected when this law focuses on regulating all of them?
6. We expect our elected official to be fair and make decisions based on evidence and facts and not on personal bias against certain groups. It would be a shame to see the work of agencies such as these hijacked by unsubstantiated and fabricated claims.

As a mother, grandmother, and community leader who serves many women who find themselves in crisis pregnancies, I urge you to reconsider and vote to oppose the S.B. No. 835 bill.

A Concerned Citizen,

Donna Hylton