

To the members of the Public Helth Committee, my name is Cynthia Monica Kjeldsen-Strunk and I am writing in opposition to S.B. 835.

I am a resident of Cheshire Ct and have knowledge of Hope Pregnancy Center due to location in regards to my residence. I have often witnessed local and non-local persons dropping off needed items such as diapers, formula, infant clothing and such to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Warmth and gratefulness are felt that the Center is available for persons having the resources and care to donate much-needed items and a place where those in need -specifically mothers and infants- can receive those items. In a time when so many are suffering financial hardships and personal loses due to the pandemic I find it very disappointing that there is wasted energy to strip a town of a center which is providing so much monetary support to persons coming from all over the state which honestly our state does not have the financial resources or manpower to organize. I see no misrepresentation in the advertisements I have viewed on social media regarding Hope Pregnancy Center. The Center is offering whatever services they can provide a family once the family has already determined they are following through with a pregnancy. I ask that you please consider not allowing S.B. 835 to pass. The volume of donations for items so desperately needed for some families will be lost I have no doubt. The state does not have the money or manpower to accept and organize and distribute the donations.

I am aware the center provides more than just monetary assistance- such as counseling once a baby is born. Emotional support for stressed moms and dads so desperately needed. Someone to just listen and lend an ear to a mom or dad who is sleep deprived and uncertain of their parenting skills. Direction for resources can be so instrumental in successful child rearing. I have been a pediatric nurse for 25 years. I know how much financial and emotional support is needed for families especially if income levels are insufficient or unforeseen circumstances have arisen. This is where a center like Hope is so needed and there is no other entity that can provide these services that I know of. Please consider my plea and let the Crisis Pregnancy Centers such as Hope Pregnancy Center continue to provide help to the community,

Sincerely,

Cynthia Monica Kjeldsen-Strunk