

35 Harwood Drive
Danbury, CT 06810-8253
February 8, 2021

Re: S.B. 835

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the public hearing for S.B. 835 is Wednesday February 10, 2021. By means of this letter I am respectfully submitting my opposition to the content of this bill. My main area of contention is the provision in the bill that is accusing all CT Pregnancy Centers of false advertising. It is interesting that the underlying premise for this accusation is not clearly stated in the S.B. 835 but the accusation is boldly stated.

I am also puzzled by the term false advertising as all CT Pregnancy Centers provide the exact services that is in their mission statement(s); i.e., to provide caring nurturing services to those women who find themselves in a motherly way but are concerned about going full term because of their individual circumstances. When they visit the center(s) they are treated in a kind and loving manner and in some organizations are provided a free sonogram to see the growth of the child inside of them. In all circumstance any decision about the child is still made by the mother based on her own free will. No one in any of the centers has the authority or power to change a mother's will.

Also, in some centers after a child is born to a client the mother is provided diapers, baby food, clothing, and many other essentials to help them start on the road of motherhood.

To accuse the CT Pregnancy Centers of false advertising is akin to accusing a business of not providing a service that it does not advertise, e.g., saying that the local chain supermarket will not repair the broken windshield on your car. Extreme example but right on point of the accusation in S.B. 835.

I also find it interesting that S.B. 835 is directed only at pregnancy centers. Is that to say there is no false advertising on behalf of any other CT organizations

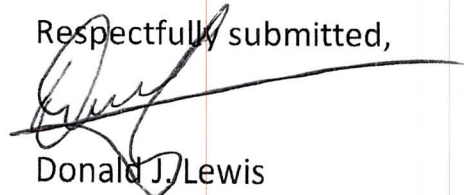
involved with pregnancy. That is a bold statement and is not a level playing field for the CT Pregnancy Centers.

In addition, S.B. 835 is also bordering on restricting the free speech of the CT Pregnancy Centers by forcing them to say something which is not part of their mission. Free speech is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United State of America. S.B. 835 is in direct contradiction to the First Amendment.

S.B. 835 is also superfluous as there are already many laws in the state of Connecticut which deal with false advertising on many different levels. To have one directed at CT Pregnancy Centers is redundant.

I pray that S.B. 835 will not move forward as on its face it is targeting and accusing once specific group of organizations for something that they are not doing, i.e., false advertising.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Lewis", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donald J. Lewis