

Testimony for Public Hearing
Committee on Public Health
February 10, 2021

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S.B. 835 AN ACT CONCERNING DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING PRACTICES OF LIMITED SERVICES PREGNANCY CENTERS.

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Stephanie Marquez and I live in Hartford. I testify in strong support of S.B. 835 An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers. This bill is personally important to me because proper sex education and information on reproductive health is crucial to breaking the cycle of poverty in communities such as mine. In order for people to make the right decisions for themselves and their future, they need to know the full spectrum of choices available to them and they deserve to get this information from sources that are honest, unbiased and non-judgemental.

I work directly with young patients that have been given false information by anti-choice crisis pregnancy centers and in some situations has been very dangerous to their health. A patient may miss out on early prenatal care to monitor the pregnancy and identify any potentially serious health problems including treatment for miscarriage or an ectopic pregnancy. I am concerned for those seeking pregnancy-related care and families in my community because these agencies convince people through shame and harassment. I understand that any organization can provide services, but it should be clear to people what those services are. It is a threat to public health when people are being deceived, delayed, or blocked in finding the time-sensitive & essential reproductive healthcare they are seeking. It is no accident that they usually have locations in low income neighborhoods mainly made up of people of color.

In conclusion, I strongly support S.B. 835 to limit the deceptive advertising practices of crisis pregnancy centers in our state. I urge the committee to move forward with S.B. 835 .

Thank you for your time.

Stephanie Marquez