

Dear Legislators -

I wanted to take the time to submit my concerns regarding the S.B. 835 bill that you will be considering. I believe there is no real need for this legislation, and that it is just a means to ensure that all options are not presented to women with unexpected pregnancies.

In looking at the advertisements for the ABC Center in Middletown, Care Net of Southeastern CT, or Birthright, I don't find any indications of misleading information. These agencies clearly state that they are resources for women who need a place to talk and to consider their options without judgement. On the websites I've looked at, it clearly states the kinds of information provided by the centers and a means by which to call and get further information if desired. They clearly state that they aren't abortion providers, and I would think that this would be obvious to anyone seriously considering trying to find an abortion provider. Frankly, I don't understand why this Bill is necessary, and it seems to me that it's an excuse for abortion providers to eliminate their "competition" - those who would help women make an informed decision about ALL of their options for their unwanted or unexpected pregnancy.

As an adoptee who recently discovered her biological mother's own story, let me explain why I believe pregnancy crisis centers are invaluable. In 1968, my biological mother, a resident of Trumbull, became pregnant with me and didn't believe trying to get rid of me somehow was an option. She didn't want to be responsible for taking my life. While confused and overwhelmed, she didn't know where to turn. There weren't any pregnancy crisis centers here in the state at that time that she could turn to for help and support. She ended up having to go to New York City to the Catholic Home Bureau and staying there until she gave birth to me and put me up for adoption. Her decision to give me a chance at having a life was courageous, selfless, and generous.

I tell this story for two reasons. Had there been pregnancy crisis centers during that time to provide my biological mother with care and support, she may have been able to keep me and raise me herself, as was her dream. I believe her story illustrates the need for these centers as a means to help women choose to bring their babies to full-term, and then make the best decision for themselves, whether it be adoption or raising the child. Secondly, I believe it's incredibly important for women to be empowered to explore ALL of the options available to them, rather than just pushing the avenue of abortion. This is the service that these pregnancy centers provide.

I think your energies would be better served in exploring why the process of adoption, with its exorbitant costs, is so difficult here in Connecticut. I know of two couples in Manchester, both who struggled with infertility, who had to go out of state in order to adopt their daughters. Why

can't we make adoption a more viable option both for pregnant women and couples here in our own state?

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony.

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