

Statement in **SUPPORT** of S.B. 835, *An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Service Pregnancy Centers*

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 10, 2021

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 12% of the adult population in the US has a proficient level of health literacy<sup>1</sup>. Not only does this lack of proficiency drive up healthcare costs here in Connecticut and across the country, but it also allows for the quacks and charlatans, who have an agenda other than true healthcare, to prey on the vulnerable and less fortunate among us. We see this in the anti-vaccination conspiracy theories, we see it in the Catholic hospitals that take their medical directives from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and we see it with the religiously backed limited-service pregnancy centers.

It is a threat to public health in our state when people are being deceived, delayed, or blocked in finding the healthcare they are seeking, particularly in reproductive healthcare. The state has a clear obligation to protect the public's health and safety from such tactics.

Please vote "yes" on S.B. 835 to ensure transparency and honesty in advertising for the sake of our citizens.

Thank you,  
Patrick McCann  
Assistant State Director, American Atheists  
Durham, CT

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<sup>1</sup> [https://nces.ed.gov/naal/health\\_results.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/naal/health_results.asp)