

# Joshua McMahon

Windsor, CT  
joshua.mcmahon@att.net

February 10, 2021

Public Health Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

To the members of the Public Health Committee:

I am opposed to S.B. No. 835. This bill asserts that non-profit pregnancy centers engage in false advertising, yet fails to identify what is considered “false advertising”, aside from asserting that pregnancy centers should be required to include references to services that they do not provide in their advertising, adding unnecessary and burdensome regulations to charitable non-profit centers that, with limited resources, provide real help to expecting mothers and families.

Pregnancy centers exist because of the charitable financial sacrifice of Connecticut’s residents. They exist to provide support to expecting moms, often times working with mothers who were not anticipating pregnancy, and are looking for help for themselves and their babies throughout pregnancy and after birth. My wife is one such mother. She became pregnant unexpectedly with our fourth child, and was feeling overwhelmed (understandably!). She saw a simple add while running errands. It read, “Pregnant? Need Help?” and provided a phone number to a pregnancy center. She called the number, and spoke with a pregnancy center representative, who encouraged her, relieved her anxiety, and offered a kind voice to get her through a difficult time. Our beautiful daughter is now a vibrant 4 year old, and is such a wonderful spark of joy to the world around her.

The idea that a pregnancy center could be subject to penalties for such a simple advertisement, one that directly helped my wife and family in a time of need, is abhorrent. Please do not proceed in adding unfair, burdensome requirements to pregnancy centers.

If pregnancy centers are to be required to include references to services that they do not provide in advertisements, then it is entirely appropriate to require that abortion clinics also include disclaimers outlining all of the services provided by pregnancy

centers that are unavailable through abortion providers. No pregnancy center advertisements claim to provide abortive services. If such false claims existed, such a center would be subject to the existing, wholly adequate state laws concerning false advertising. This bill unfairly targets non-profit organizations that are a wonderful resource to Connecticut residents in need, at no cost to the tax payer. They are entirely funded by private donors who are dedicated to helping mothers, fathers, and their babies thrive. They are doing exactly that, and should be left to their task unencumbered.

Sincerely,

Joshua McMahon