

To the members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Lauren Noce, and I wanted to take the time today to let you know why I oppose S.B. No. 835. Two years ago I began working at Carolyn's Place which is a Pregnancy Care center. If you haven't heard about how we began I will mention our story quickly because it is pretty incredible! On November 4, 1991 Father Robert Rousseau, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Watertown CT found a *three-hour old* baby girl wrapped only in a blue t-shirt - she was left in a cardboard box in the doorway of the church. As a result, a group of parishioners joined together and one year later, formed Carolyn's Place with the goal that "no woman should face pregnancy alone."

I am writing in opposition of S.B. No. 835 because it is accusing all CT Pregnancy Centers of false advertising. This bill does **not** clearly state what they determine as "false advertising," except that Pregnancy Centers do not provide or refer for abortions in their pregnancy support services. I felt strongly about writing to you all & to tell you about Carolyn's Place because working at Carolyn's Place has taught me how much mothers and fathers need our support in our community. Just today a mother left and thanked us repeatedly for all the help we provided her and her family over the past 20 years!

During our 27 years we have seen over 1,528 babies be born to mothers regardless of how they were conceived. We've provided material and emotional support to mothers and fathers. We have an education outreach program that teaches children, teens, and young adults about overcoming obstacles, sexual risk avoidance, the **dignity** of human life, and making responsible decisions about their relationships. We have amazing feedback for all of our services, and we do not engage in false advertising. **Does any agency advertise for services that they don't provide?** I would strongly urge you to oppose S.B. No. 835.

Thank you for your time,

Lauren Ann Noce