

Testimony of
Michelle Noehren
Before the Public Health Committee
February 10, 2021

Senator Daugherty Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 835, AAC Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

As someone who believes in people having control over their bodies, I applaud you for raising this issue once again. It is deeply disturbing that crisis pregnancy centers in Connecticut are using deceptive advertising to lure in people who may be pregnant under the guise of wanting to convince them to not seek an abortion.

Personally, when I see advertising for centers like BirthRight on the side of a bus, it appears that they are an open, welcoming place where one can receive a free pregnancy test. However, organizations such as this provide misinformation to vulnerable people by appearing like they are legitimate medical institutions, when, in fact, they are not.

According to an investigative study released by CT NARAL back in 2018, these centers are often providing inaccurate information about abortion and birth control. In fact, the report states that one of the most common pieces of medically inaccurate information disseminated by these centers is the assertion that abortion increases the risk of breast cancer and other types of cancer. There is absolutely no science to back up that claim. It is simply untrue.

People who may be pregnant and scared deserve access to a full range of reproductive options, not to be taken advantage of by religiously affiliated organizations who want to push their beliefs onto others.

Having control over our bodies is critical. It is immoral for an organization to purport itself to be someone's saving grace and then mislead them about their legal options with inaccurate information.

Thank you for your continued attention to this important issue.