

02/08/2021

To the members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Darlene Passapera and I am the Executive Director of Hope Pregnancy Center in Cheshire. 20 years ago I found myself in an unplanned pregnancy. I was single, not in a real "relationship", had only been employed at this "new" job for a year and couldn't afford a place of my own. As an unwed 24 year old woman, I found I was getting pressure from all around me to have an abortion. I was also disowned by my family, because after all I was an embarrassment. Regardless, I chose to continue on with my pregnancy even though I had no support. Not one person who has ever been in this position can say making an options decision is an easy one. It comes with plenty of doubt, stress and what if's. Pregnancy Centers all around our state and country have been very helpful in providing support that assist with all these uncertainties and lend that helping hand that otherwise wouldn't be there.

I strongly oppose SB 835 that concerns "deceptive advertising practices". It is a very broad and vague statement and leads to open interpretation. Is something you don't agree with considered "deceptive advertising"? What verbage or lack thereof is actually considered deceptive? While I understand we don't want to mislead anyone and wouldn't want any other centers using any language to misguide or misinform, we have to be very careful into what is considered "deceptive". After all, going after Pregnancy Centers because they do not align with someone's beliefs or who's wording you oppose simply does not mean they have or are with the intent to steer in the wrong direction and it opens doors to misinterpret anything that you may not like or agree with. I urge you to reconsider the vagueness of this bill and understand the injustices that follow suit.

Respectfully,

Darlene Passapera