

To the members of the Public Health Committee,

Attached is my testimony in opposition S.B. No. 835.

My name is Laosa qazimi and I am 21 years old. I am a single mom and recently gave birth to a baby girl on April 9th 2021. My daughter was born with a rare condition called optic nerve hypoplasia. She has little to no eye sight and is declared legally blind. My food stamps were cut off about 2 months ago and due to the covid situation I had been struggling to purchase baby supplies and find work. My daughter's condition makes it hard for me to find a care giver as I cannot put her in daycare. I am only receiving unemployment currently and do not know when I will be able to seek work again. A month ago I learned about Hope pregnancy center through a friend. I called and spoke to Maggie who helped me out with formula the very same day! I joined the parenting program that helps young moms with baby supplies. Within one month they have helped me with formula, baby food, diapers, wipes, clothes, kitchen utensils and baby bath products. My coach Loretta is also very supportive and a great person to talk to when I have any questions about parenting. They also have a young moms group that is through zoom online currently. This group allows me to connect with other young mothers which is a great support system to have especially when you are going through difficult times. In just one month they have done so much for my daughter and I.

I am beyond grateful for this organization, They have provided my daughter with many things she needs and are so supportive. It feels amazing to know that I always have someone to talk to that will not judge and be there for me. I would recommend them to anyone who is pregnant or a single mom.

Thankyou,

Laosa Qazimi