



Testimony on

S.B. 835 (Raised)"An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers"

February 10, 2021

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[WWW.ABCWOMENSCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.ABCWOMENSCENTER.ORG)

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I am testifying in opposition to S.B. 835. My name is Mickeve Regis, the Client Service Manager at ABC Women's Center in Middletown, Connecticut. I oversee the client services department. I received my Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development at the University of Pennsylvania.

Given my current work experience and graduate studies, human behavior is very telling and can provide significant insight. I've observed over the past 4 years, that ABC's clientele has grown year after year mainly due to word of mouth. Meaning, over 50% of our clients are sharing their positive experiences with family and friends and serve as our biggest community referral group.

Unfortunately, false narratives have been publicized against Pregnancy Resource Centers like ABC. One is that poverty and unplanned pregnancy are two circumstances that lead people to PRCs. Another misleading rhetoric is that women and men are being delayed from seeking time-sensitive healthcare when they visit PRCs.

Over the past few years, on many occasions, women will have both an appointment scheduled at our facility and at a family planning center if she chooses. Therefore, women are not experiencing delays in seeking out the service they want. They are well aware and informed. Before a client even enters the door of ABC for an hour appointment, she is told about the services we provide and the ones we do not provide. One of our preliminary documents that has to be read and signed before meeting with us explicitly mentions what we do and do not do at ABC. No client is left confused or in the dark about what services are or are not available to them.

It is my job to advocate on behalf of the women and men we serve. They are contributing citizens who deserve to have their hope restored and needs met. We take pride in the services we provide and build vital community partnerships (i.e. Middlesex Health, DCF, New Horizons, Halliee House, Women in NAACP, MaturityWorks). We have expanded our services and office hours from Monday- Friday in order to accommodate the growing number of people we have the privilege of serving.

Over the past 30 years, we have had thousands of women come into our Center, all at very different points in their pregnancy decision making process. At the end of the visit, they write comments, such as "I'm so happy my friend recommended ABC to me," "Thank you for doing all this work to help women and children," and "I appreciate everything you do, feels like a weight has been lifted." The foundation of what we do at ABC Women's Center is rooted in our love for women. We provide a safe place for her to receive education on all options and to be empowered to make the best choice for herself. The education we share during our Options Counseling appointments are what all providers who work with pregnant women are required to share: parenting, adoption and abortion.

You are welcome to visit our center and see for yourself the experiences our clients get at ABC. I strongly encourage you to vote 'NO' on S.B. 835.