

To the members of the public health committee,

My name is Tracy Roberts-Lennon and I am writing in strong opposition to S.B. 835.

I am a coach at a local pregnancy center. I have been building relationships with pregnant women for about three years at this center. These women have been very thankful for the time and attention that Hope Pregnancy Center gives to them. The center is warm friendly and comforting. The women are able to receive the items they need for their baby's first year of life, outside the womb. As a coach I, meet with expectant moms one on one and provide information about parenting, along with emotional and spiritual support.

As I read through the bill 835, I see the words 'deceptive advertising practices', and honestly I don't know what that implies. The center where I volunteer, is open and honest about all the options available to clients. The website clearly states that you have several options when facing an unplanned pregnancy; abortion, parenting, and adoption. Hope Pregnancy Center offers a confidential appointment to discuss the options in order to make an informed decision. There is not any deception involved.
<https://www.hopepregnancycenterct.org/services/options-coaching/>

Why are pregnancy centers being thought of as deceptive? Is it because we believe in the sanctity of life? The option to have an abortion is always the client's choice, as long as it is legal in America. Pregnancy centers are here to assist those women who choose life, but are in need of a little assistance. Parenting is a lot of work, it takes dedication and commitment. Unplanned pregnancies cause worry and anxiety for new moms, and pregnancy centers are there for support.

Thank you for your time, Tracy Roberts Lennon

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