

To the members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Lori Robinson Schommer and I am writing in strong opposition to S.B. 835. I believe that the bill incorrectly targets pregnancy centers who exist solely for the benefit and the support of mothers who are in need of both emotional, mental and material support.

As a client coach, I have witnessed firsthand the ways in which HOPE Pregnancy Center has enriched the lives of its clients. The center itself and its staff and volunteers strive to help the women and their babies by sharing with these women the knowledge to make more informed decisions about parenting through the use of videos and educational materials. The center provides diapers and other helpful goods which make it easier for women to focus on the care of their baby, rather than having them worry about having to procure material items.

The center offers information on the birthing process as well as provides helpful resources for the mother as to how to form positive relationships in her life and how to balance those relationships with that of being a parent.

Most importantly, just as the name of the center spells out, the center provides its clients with Hope. Hope to move forward for another day and to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to become stronger, more capable, and more informed parents.

The social media platforms used by HOPE, including Instagram and Facebook, as well as the center's website, all offer information and supportive facts that are based on assisting the mothers. These outreach outlets also are used to involve the community at large by asking for assistance and by giving the community the opportunity to help out these women and their children.

HOPE pregnancy center, and many others like it, allow the clients who choose its services to feel empowered and more confident about the ways in which they can be better mothers, and better mothers make for more well adapted and well cared for children. Isn't that the goal of any community service? To help those in need and to try and make life better for everyone, and to provide its citizens with care, concern and ultimately HOPE.

Thank you,
Lori Robinson Schommer