

Hello,

Thank you for this time to speak.

I learned about this bill SB835 “An Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers” thanks to my state representative. This is my first time testifying at a public hearing. This is a new experience for me to express my opinion like this, but I’m glad we do this and thank you in advance for listening to me.

I’ve long felt that it is important for women with unplanned pregnancies be fully supported, especially when they decide to give birth and become a mother to their babies and or if they decide to give birth and give the baby up for adoption so that another woman can become a mother. I know Catholic Charities for example does a lot of this vital work.

Listen, folks, life is hard and it’s lonely and sometimes its downright scary and terrifying. It does not surprise me that there are more faith-based pregnancy resource centers, than there are secular planned parenthood offices, because sometimes you just need more support, you need prayers and there’s something about approaching pregnancy from a faith-perspective. I get it, its not for everyone. And that’s fine. But think about it a second — these many of these faith-based centers are funded by donations only...not taxpayer dollars. There is a whole network of caring people out there in CT, really doing the work of caring and taking care of their fellow sister. Especially in the time of COVID, this is a beautiful thing. It’s what gives me hope in humanity.

Of all the things that frustrate me about Connecticut government, learning about this bill that says there is an alleged need to regulate the advertising of faith-based, pro-life centers is being brought again, again, and again to the Connecticut government is just ridiculous. This is America folks. We have something called Freedom of Speech. And Freedom of religion. Some of you may want to regulate a whole bunch of things no doubt. Sure the world might be a better place for you if everyone followed your rules. But that’s not what our country is about.

I’m sorry there are all these people here having to testify again, taking precious time out of their lives when they could be doing something else because there is a bill that wants to infringe on the free speech of one group that services women, while leaving another group that services women free to do as it pleases. Why not reword it so

that it is an "Act Concerning Deceptive Advertising Practices of ALL Pregnancy Centers"?

I know the Governor has taken unilateral emergency powers during this pandemic, but I would suggest the Public Health committee focus on taking back some power from the Governor and having a real say in public health in our state regarding the biggest public health issue of our times — COVID...

Vote NO on SB835.

Sincerely,
Frank Salomone
Greenwich, CT