

My name is Catrenia Stevens and I'm testifying in **strong** opposition to S.B. 835. I reached out to [Hope Pregnancy Center Cheshire](#) and I was referred by the homeless shelter I was in. I was pregnant and didn't know where to turn and they said this center would help me with resources. I was only expecting free diapers, but not the knowledge, information support and other items and help that came with it. I was surprised people are so giving like this center. I felt like they helped me grow as a parent, and even though I have other kids, I have learned way more, I have had support, they go more and above anything anyone has ever given to me and my children. It is hard when people say they are there for you and aren't in reality but the people at hope are there for me and checking in on me and follow through with helping me. Everything they promise to help me with they do. That was so amazing to me. They have made my life better for mothers so we are not burdened with getting to places, they love on us and our kids and many other moms like me. Everything we ever need to know before going is on pamphlets and websites and facebook. How are people trying to attack these centers of helping me and my family. My daughter knows the people at Hope and she loves talking to them and she feels like it's a second home. There's a lot of things you think you know as a mom, but life gets hard. Hope has been there to support me. They help mothers and fathers- like my husband too. They actually help the fathers too with resources. They give us all they have and more. Please vote no against this bill that would harm my family and many other women in the state of connecticut.