

February 9th, 2021

Dear Distinguished Public Health Committee Members,

My name is Chelsea and I am a first-time expecting mother. I am writing in opposition of S.B. No. 835 and to share my recent experience with Hopeline Pregnancy Center.

On Christmas day of 2020 my husband and I learned we were pregnant. This news brought both excitement and anxiety, as we had hoped to become parents but knew my previous health conditions had the potential to make the process complicated. I called my doctor and scheduled an ultrasound appointment but was told my husband would not be allowed to join. While I understood the circumstances, I was disheartened and fearful; I knew there was potential for bad news and I dreaded the thought of having to process it alone and vulnerable.

Upon a friend's recommendation, I researched Hopeline Pregnancy Center and learned they provide free ultrasound appointments that both my husband and I could attend together. Their website was easy to navigate and made very clear who they are and what services they did and did not provide. I spoke with a compassionate and helpful staff member on a Monday and just forty-eight hours later my husband and I were in the office for our appointment. I filled out paperwork which clearly defined my rights and options as an expecting mom. The paperwork also reiterated what I had read online: that Hopeline did not perform abortions or provide abortion referrals, however, they could offer information on the process and the different types of abortions should the client choose that route.

The atmosphere at Hopeline felt calm, private, and safe, and the staff were extremely knowledgeable, professional, and hospitable. My husband and I were fortunate to share in the immense joy of seeing our healthy baby together for the first time. I cannot express enough how grateful I am for this organization, and I am confident that every individual who walks through the doors of Hopeline Pregnancy Center is welcomed with a heart that is for them.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Stratton  
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