

February 9, 2021

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

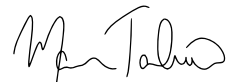
My name is Maressa Taliercio and I have been a resident of Norwalk, CT for the past 8 years.

I am writing in opposition to S.B. No. 835 for the following reasons:

- Having experienced four pregnancies myself, I never once encountered deceptive language, of any kind, from any pregnancy center with which I became involved. In fact, I was able to both read *and* understand all literature concerning the services these centers offer. Pregnancy does not inhibit a woman from reading or thinking clearly about her options. Far from aiding women in the acquisition of relevant information, underhanded legislation like this will actually leave pregnant women with *fewer* options for informed decision-making. This bill proposes to *limit* my freedoms, not enhance them, and is more akin to censorship than to protection.
- As a Latina, surrounded by minority women within my community and circle of friends, I am a witness that CT Pregnancy Centers have provided excellent care for our women and their children. The services they provide have allowed women to thrive, becoming independent, hard-working, tax-paying citizens, who are raising up the next generation of Americans.
- This bill proposes to eliminate a viable option for women in our community who are looking for professional healthcare during their pregnancies. Would you take away access to free professional help for the vulnerable during a pandemic in which many women have suffered income loss and already have limited options?

Please consider the oppressive effects that passing such a bill would have for women within our communities. For the sake of women across Connecticut, I plead with you to reject this bill.

Sincerely,



Maressa Taliercio