

Feb. 9, 2021

Dear governing authorities,

My name is Michael Taliercio and I am a resident of Norwalk, CT, where I was born and raised.

I am writing to draw your attention to the dangerous logic being proposed in the advancement of S.B. No. 835.

This bill is unhelpful for a number of reasons, but I will focus here on merely one—its ambiguity. The force of its imposition comes down to a single sentence (or parts thereof): *“No limited services pregnancy center ... shall make or disseminate ... any statement ... that is deceptive, whether by statement or omission ... that a limited services pregnancy center ... reasonably should know to be deceptive”* (Sec. 2).

At best, this statement is a truism and offers nothing helpful. At worst, it is an attack on the First Amendment right to free speech and a doorway to tyranny. That neither “deceptive” nor “reasonably” have been defined in this bill is concerning, especially in light of its thoroughness elsewhere. Indeed, it is ironic that a proposal so replete with definitions of blatantly obvious and superfluous terms like “client” and “licensed health care provider” would be noticeably silent regarding the matter on which it turns. For all of its attempts to explain concepts related to limited services pregnancy centers, this bill is anything but explanative.

Essentially, this measure would permit the highest governing authorities to define notions like “deceptive” and “reasonably” however they see fit, at whatever given moment they so choose. Furthermore, the idea that an organization could be indicted for “omission” of an ambiguously-defined—or rather, *undefined*—statement would technically implicate every organization on those very same grounds.

With such an obvious lack of clarity concerning its true intent, it’s difficult to see why S.B. No. 835 shouldn’t itself be considered deceptive. I urge you to reject it.

Grateful for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Taliercio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael C. Taliercio