

*AN ACT CONCERNING DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING PRACTICES OF LIMITED SERVICES
PREGNANCY CENTERS*

I want to submit public testimony and the link in the bill states "At this time, submitted testimony for this bill may only be available through the legislative committee."

Here is my public testimony. Please confirm it has been officially received and entered.

This bill needs to be voted down.

First of all, why not prohibit all pregnancy centers from deceptive practices? Are you suggesting that pregnancy centers which do offer abortions should be allowed to use deceptive advertising?

Second, your definition of a Pregnancy Services Center is ridiculous. My primary care physician office contains all five of these descriptions yet is not a pregnancy care center:

- (i) Staff or volunteers who wear medical attire and uniforms;
 - (ii) one or more examination tables;
 - (iii) a private or semiprivate room or area containing medical supplies or medical instruments;
 - (iv) staff or volunteers who collect health information from clients;
 - (v) the facility is located on the same premises as a licensed health care facility
- Why not simply say a pregnancy services center is a facility which serves pregnant women. Wouldn't that make much more sense?

Third, the bill as written is deceptive, because your definition of a Pregnancy Service Center attempts to distinguish between those which offer abortions and those which do not; yet the only time abortion is mentioned is in relation to limited care pregnancy centers. Specifically, the definition states: "(A) offers obstetric ultrasounds, obstetric sonograms, pregnancy testing or diagnosis or prenatal care to pregnant clients" Why not mention abortion in this definition? If a center offers ultrasounds, sonograms, pregnancy testing, and prenatal care; but NOT abortions; I would not consider it limited care; yet according to your definition, a center can offer all these services, but not abortion services and therefore be limited care.

And finally, what in the world does deceptive advertising mean? The word deceptive is not specific. Is the Hartford GYN Center deceptive? Their purpose is not GYN, but abortion as stated four times in the first four sentences of their website.

Hartford GYN Center is the only independent, state-licensed Family Planning Clinic in Connecticut. We offer abortion up to 22 weeks in pregnancy as well as a full range of reproductive healthcare services.

Hartford GYN is conveniently located in the South Green section of Hartford and has been specializing in abortion care since 1978. We are an accredited member of the National Abortion Federation and a member of the Abortion Care Network ...

Have you ever visited a Pregnancy Resource Center? A place which offers women an alternative to abortion. These places have real, caring counsellors who understand that a child in the womb is precious (all of us were once such vulnerable pre-born infants) and that the termination of that life is traumatic for both the infant and for the mother. This bill is directly aimed at putting these places out of business; which if that were to occur, would itself be a crime.

Again, please vote against SB-835

Thank you
Albert Tartaglino
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