

My name is Elizabeth Welburn. I am a lifelong resident of CT and a voting constituent. I stand in strong opposition to Senate Bill 835.

I have volunteered at ABC Women's Center since 2019 as a Client Advocate. I am here today to advocate for the clients.

Sadly, we are living in times of relative truth. It has become common for people to create narratives and spread false and baseless claims.

This bill presents a claim that pregnancy resource centers use deceptive advertising practices. This is false. As a Pro Lifer, it is because of ABC Women's Center's website clarity that they do not perform or refer for abortions that I opted to begin volunteering there in 2019. Women who seek services at ABC are told on day one, orally and in writing, that the Center does not perform or refer for abortions. Additionally, a Limitation of Services form is sent electronically to each woman prior to their 1st intake appointment. This form reiterates that the center does not perform or refer for abortions. It also states clearly that the counselors there are not professional ones, but peer counselors.

I am in disbelief that this is the 4th consecutive year this bill has been raised, despite no proof or client complaints of deceptive advertising practices. There are already state statutes in place that address false advertising. This bill is simply propaganda and a strategy of the Pro Choice and Pro Abortion industry's agenda. It is an attack on faith based centers and an attack on our free speech rights.

We are in full agreement that we do not want to see women deceived. Perhaps it would be best to regulate Pro Abortion clinics who do not allow women to see their ultrasounds and be fully informed on their options.

Elected officials such as yourselves, are elected to represent the residents of the state, NOT to represent special interest groups, even if your personal beliefs may line up with theirs. Well, over the years, these centers have helped tens of thousands of residents, including 482 NEW clients at ABC in 2020. This is in addition to the existing clients and this is one center only. Despite these high numbers of people served, there have been zero client complaints against the centers to state departments. How can anyone justify further regulating the centers as a solution for a problem that does not exist? All we ask is that we can continue to peacefully serve the families in Connecticut, at zero cost to them or to the state, and that these baseless attacks against the centers cease to exist. This bill is a waste of precious time and a waste of taxpayer funds. Please do the right thing for the residents of CT and vote NO on this bill, once and for all. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Welburn