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Testimony in support of:

HB 5322: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS REGARDING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE TOWARD PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM PATIENTS.

Senator Anwar, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Somers, Representative Klarides-Ditria, and members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for raising HB 5322.

Throughout 2023, my office convened a “Healthcare Cabinet,” which brought key policymakers, stakeholders, practitioners, and advocates together to discuss healthcare challenges facing various demographic populations across Connecticut. The cabinet was made up of subcommittees based on those population groups sought solutions to these challenges, which include potential legislation or restructuring of current efforts.

The subcommittee on women’s health turned ideas into legislative goals, while addressing the unique health concerns and conditions throughout different stages of women’s lives, which may affect their overall health and wellness. One of the issues they raised was the danger and impact of intimate partner violence during pregnancy and the postpartum period. This issue was one of the subcommittee’s top priorities.

Data has shown that there is unfortunately a lack of screening and education on the dangers and impact of intimate partner violence (IPV), especially prior to and following pregnancy. It is known that the risk of intimate partner violence is higher during pregnancy and up to one year postpartum. IPV can have serious negative health consequences for the child and the person who is giving birth.

Providing IPV resources and education to every birthing person will help ensure that healthy relationships are discussed, and that each person leaves with knowledge of Connecticut’s statewide hotline, CT Safe Connect. Ensuring that all birthing people leave with an IPV resource is a crucial step in improving health outcomes and reducing maternal morbidity and mortality in Connecticut.

All the best,



Sean Scanlon
State Comptroller