

**Testimony for Public Hearing
Committee on Public Health
March 20, 2018**

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Middletown, CT**

**HB 5416 AN ACT CONCERNING DECEPTIVE PRACTICES OF LIMITED SERVICES
PREGNANCY CENTERS**

Representative Steinberg, Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

I write in support of HB 5416, An Act Concerning Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers.

In 2015, I was 19 and there was a possibility that I could've been pregnant. I had just enrolled in college and I was scared, helpless, and confused! I didn't know what to do, who to talk to or where to go. I lived in Middletown, CT my whole life and during my commutes to our local grocery store, I would often pass the ABC Women's Center. They would frequently advertise that they offer free pregnancy tests and moral support. I thought this would be a health clinic that could help me in my situation.

When I walked in, I was greeted by their receptionist, she asked why I was there, and I told her. They asked for my ID and information. She provided me the supplies I needed to perform the pregnancy test. Afterwards, I brought into a room that was like a counselor's office. A few minutes passed by, and another women entered the room and indicated that my test results were negative! I was so relieved!

The women then started asking me what was my religious affiliation was and if I was considering birth control. I explained to her that I did not identify with any religion and I wanted to explore my birth control options. The lady then began to hand me different pamphlets on religion and a lecture me on how the only form of birth control is abstinence and that all other forms can harm my body. She made me feel uncomfortable and guilty that I was sexually active. I will never go to this crisis pregnancy center ever again.

I support HB 5416 because women shouldn't be confused about what kind of help they can get at a pregnancy center.

Thank you,

Tami Holley