



new york state **RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE, INC.**

COMMITTEE

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Memo Against Requiring the Commissioner of Health to Conduct a Study on Pregnancy Resource Centers.

New York State Right to Life strongly opposes legislation requiring the Commissioner of Health to conduct a study on pregnancy resource centers (A5499 Glick/S470 Hoylman). This bill seeks to attach suspect status to pregnancy resource centers in the eyes of pregnant mothers who need life-affirming help. All lawmakers who prioritize true care for pregnant mothers over a radical abortion agenda should oppose this bill.

- This bill places under suspicion the critical and sacrificial work of pro-life pregnancy resource centers. It requires the Commissioner of Health to conduct a study and issue a report which, in part, examines the impact of “limited service pregnancy centers” (in other words, pro-life pregnancy resource centers) “on the ability of women to obtain accurate, non-coercive health care information and timely access to a comprehensive range of reproductive and sexual health care services.” Further, this bill mandates a taskforce be created to help with the study that includes an OBGYN whose practice includes abortion and someone “with professional experience in the field of reproductive rights, health, and/or justice.” This amounts to a setup.
- This bill may also shut pregnancy resource centers down by imposing grossly unreasonable levels of paperwork. Under this bill, pregnancy resource centers would be required to submit sweeping amounts of information about their overall practice, their clients, and their offered medical services. For smaller nonmedical pregnancy resource centers staffed mostly by volunteers, submitting this much paperwork may be impossible. This could lead to pregnancy resource centers closing their doors which is what enemies of true choice would love to see.
- Finally, some of the information pregnancy resource centers would be required to disclose under this bill raises concerns about client confidentiality. According to this bill, pregnancy resource centers would have to submit “the geographic regions in which each woman accessing these services resides” and “basic demographic information about each woman, including race, age, and marital status.” While this bill mandates that information about clients of pregnancy resource centers be published in aggregate form so that individuals wouldn’t be identifiable, pregnancy resource centers would still have to submit more specific, personal information about their clients for the study to be published. This could jeopardize client confidentiality.

Ultimately, this bill seeks to inappropriately influence the decisions of pregnant mothers by placing under suspicion centers that are offering them care. It offers governmental support to the dubious claim that abortion qualifies as medical care, and it could have the effect of silencing pregnancy resource centers. Pregnancy resource centers are nonprofit charities staffed in great part by volunteers. The State of New York should not place a cloud of suspicion over people who are affirming the worthiness of both pregnant mothers and their children.

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