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Betsy Butler

September 7, 2022

The Honorable John S. Lee

Chair, Arts, Parks, Health, Education and Neighborhoods Council Committee

Los Angeles City Hall, Room 340

Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Draft Ordinance Re Pregnancy Services Centers – Support**

Dear Councilmember Lee,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center, we write in support of the Draft Ordinance Adding Section 28.30 to Article 8, Chapter II of the Los Angeles Municipal Code ("Draft Ordinance"), which will prohibit pregnancy services centers from using false or misleading advertising to attract patients and delay the care they desire.

In California, there are at least 165 crisis pregnancy centers ("CPCs"), none of which offer abortion care or contraceptive care and only 10% provide prenatal care. Many CPCs use misleading advertising suggesting they offer these services. For example, CPCs often offer "nondiagnostic ultrasounds" which are unable to detect fetal abnormalities, fetal distress, or other complications, and can be performed by persons unqualified to identify dangerous medical conditions. These inadequate services give pregnant patients a false sense of security and impede their efforts to seek the legitimate care they need.

Delays in reproductive care can have serious consequences. Women seeking emergency contraception must do so within a 72-hour window. Delays in the decision to terminate a pregnancy might require more invasive procedures or render the patient ineligible for termination. Finally, delays in prenatal care increase the risk of maternal and infant mortality. With the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, it has been estimated that annually as many as 9,400 people from other states will travel to Los Angeles County to seek abortion care; this expanded need will also likely grow the number of CPCs that take root in our County.

The Draft Ordinance will prohibit pregnancy services centers from using false or misleading advertising to deceive patients seeking emergency contraception, pregnancy termination, or prenatal care into believing that the centers offer such services. It will also hold pregnancy services centers accountable by making it easier for aggrieved patients to establish standing in civil lawsuits.

CWLC's mission is to create a more just and equitable society by breaking down barriers and advancing the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. The Draft Ordinance aims to protect reproductive health care in Los Angeles by ensuring that pregnancy service centers provide accurate and safe care for those seeking it.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports the Draft Ordinance.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director

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