



Bill S.37
Testimony of Cindy Tabor
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

Thank you, Senators, for allowing me to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 37. I am Cindy Tabor, the Executive Director of the Pregnancy Resource Center, PRC in Barre. Our PRC has been serving our community for 30 years and is a vital part of our community. Last year we offered free services to 51 clients valuing nearly \$115,000.00. As a post-abortive woman, I would like to share some truth and context regarding the mission of the PRC's. I request that the committee members consider removing the Pregnancy Resource Center Fraud section from the bill, as currently written it is inconsistent with the intent of the full bill. The PRC Fraud Section is also irrelevant and includes inaccurate assumptions.

S.37 and H.89 are essential to understanding and guiding the intention of adding Reproductive Liberty to the Vermont Constitution in November 2022. There is a need for the Bills to be consistent with the definition of liberty. However, true liberty is for all parties involved not just restricting liberty to only one side of reproductive issues in health care. Access to protections and shielding should not be restricted to only termination of pregnancy and should also be granted to those patients who choose life and those medical providers who may or may not want to participate in life ending procedures. True liberty should also include protections for children born and unborn to reflect authentic reproductive liberty.

A Constitutional Right is for all, which includes liberty and protections for those who may have different perspectives. There are clear differences of opinion in the field of medicine regarding termination of life, which are seen in the Pro-Life vs Pro-Abortion discussions locally and nationally. Liberty is for all. PRCs are no more anti-abortion than Planned Parenthood is anti-life. We just have different missions. One supports termination of life, and the other supports alternatives to termination. Women need both, communities need both to support the value of the availability of true choice in each community.

PRCs provide access to free supportive services for the undecided women in an unplanned pregnancy. Women have three choices: abortion, adoption, and parenting. PRCs exist to support women in a safe, non-judgmental place to explore their options including supports offered to make a personal informed decision. This personal informed decision is supported by medical advances in ultrasound technology. Women have the right to achieve their dreams and have their babies too. A community PRC is there to help her achieve this.

PRCs are not deceptive, nor do they coerce anyone to have a child. The section described as PRC's UNFAIR and DECEPTIVE ACTs in S.37 is irrelevant. PRCs are following all state regulations and laws, which include being subject to all existing consumer protection laws. PRCs are already subject to and adhere to all Vermont Statute. As of this writing, Vermont Attorney General has not received any patient complaints to warrant any investigations or civil action against a Pregnancy Resource Center. Pregnancy Resource Centers in Vermont and across the nation have a patient satisfaction rate of nearly 100%. Pregnancy Resource Centers provide pregnancy tests and ultrasounds by medically credentialed professionals under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician. All medical information provided is cited, sourced, and vetted by medical professionals. PRCs exist to provide women with the support she needs to make a personal informed decision regarding her future and the future of her child. PRC's do this by confirming pregnancy by medical ultrasound in a supportive environment by offering compassion, hope and help in her circumstances.

Here is an example of our [advertising \(https://youtu.be/mzCjDoa5nos\)](https://youtu.be/mzCjDoa5nos) which does not include any misleading information regarding our services. We are clear we do not provide emergency contraception or abortion services. Our clients are well informed of what we offer prior to an appointment.

Our center has the newest ultrasound technology, by offering 3D and 4D ultrasounds for any woman who may want one prior to making her decision. All our services are FREE and confidential. Men and women are amazed at the technology and the ability to meet their unborn baby via ultrasound in the first and second trimester.

PRCs support women and families in Vermont through private funding (neighbors helping neighbors). In 2020, Vermont had 4953 births and 1227 abortions as cited in the Vermont Vital Statistics Report by the VT Dept of Health. PRCs are a vital part of the maternal health services in our community. We also support post-abortive woman and help them find peace and healing.

As a post-abortive woman, I can promise you we meet each women where she is at. PRC are a nonjudgement zone. My passion for empowering women by supporting informed decision making is based on my personal experience with abortion. I truly wish I had known of and visited a PRC when I needed them the most.

Please consider 1) striking out the unnecessary PRC section from the bill or 2) rewrite the section to be inclusive to abortion providers alike. Both abortion providers and non-providers should be held to the same standard of advertising practices and proposed additional scrutiny in the spirit of true reproductive liberty. Let's define reproductive liberty as inclusive as possible.

Respectfully,

Cindy Tabor

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