

April 1, 2013

## Testimony against Senate Bill 490

Good afternoon senators! My name is Robin Fuller, and I am sharing my story with you today because of my concern for Senate Bill 490 and how it might impact the community in Grants Pass, as well as throughout the entire state of Oregon.

At the tender age of 20 I found myself pregnant. The timing was all wrong. I was a 4.0 college student, had been the valedictorian of my high school, and a baby was nowhere in my plans. I had been raised to believe abortion was not a good thing, yet I found myself in a position of needing support and guidance. I had three options: to parent, abort or place for adoption. To be honest, none of those options looked favorable to me.

I went to the only place I could find to have my pregnancy test – the local Planned Parenthood. When I told the counselor that I planned on having the baby, I was immediately told how it would ruin my life. A baby would prevent me from reaching my goals and finishing my education. It would be so very hard. Any hope I had was quickly diminished.

I spoke at length with my boyfriend at the time. We felt we could handle marriage and a baby, but the counselor's words kept reverberating in my head. Abortion started to look like a way out of a difficult situation, and we eventually made that choice. I ended up dropping out of school anyway. That relationship ended. I went against everything I believed in, and have suffered the consequences ever since.

Now I'm not saying that having a baby is an easy process – especially if the timing isn't right. It IS hard. It IS challenging.

But I truly believe each woman is smart and can overcome obstacles if given the support and education she needs. I wish I had been given the support, the chance to research all my options more fully, and that I had been able to go to a pregnancy center. If I had, I would like to think I would be the mother of a 29-year-old.

Pregnancy Centers offer hope in the midst of the most difficult of situations, like mine, all at no cost to the women they serve. They offer information on all of the options, and the support and services throughout pregnancy and afterwards cannot be compared to any other service organization that exists.