

**TO: Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services**

**FR: Kerry Snodgrass**

**DA: April 1, 2013**

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB 490**

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Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

**I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today in support of SB 490.** I am an intern for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, and I am here today to speak as a participant in a research project that Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon conducted in March of 2013 involving Crisis Pregnancy Centers in Oregon.

The goal of the research project was to determine which Crisis Pregnancy Centers were operating in Oregon, which ones claimed or alluded to being a medical clinic. What I learned varied from entity to entity:

- Several of the Crisis Pregnancy Centers told me they were medical clinics, while some admitted they were not. As you have already heard, Crisis Pregnancy Centers are generally staffed with licensed personnel and therefore not required to follow accepted medical protocols nor adhere to basic consumer protection standards.
- Most of the Crisis Pregnancy Centers said that I would have to wait up to 1 hour for my pregnancy results. As is widely known, urine-based pregnancy tests only take a few minutes to process, so by delaying my test results, the Crisis Pregnancy Center could fill the time with biased counseling intended to mislead me about my possible options.
- I told one Crisis Pregnancy Center located in Gresham that if I turned out to be pregnant, I was terrified how my boyfriend would react. Upon learning that I was facing a potentially violent situation at home, the operator responded by placing me on hold so she could answer another call.

There are also Crisis Pregnancy Centers like one in Lebanon that display signs with the words “Health Clinic,” which adds to the confusion. This is a serious problem because women believe they are visiting a real medical clinic where there is a commonly understood expectation that they will receive confidential medical services. But when a woman walks in to a Crisis Pregnancy Center, she is checking her medical privacy rights at the door—without even knowing it.

In closing, I ask this Committee to support SB 490 and require Crisis Pregnancy Centers to be transparent about their purpose and services. Young women like me visit these centers looking for help and accurate information, and we shouldn’t have to put our safety and privacy at risk to get the help we need.