

To: Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
From: Michele Stranger-Hunter
Date: April 1, 2013
Re: Testimony on SB 490

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today in support of SB 490. I am the Executive Director for Naral Pro-Choice Oregon, which has been a political leader of the pro-choice movement since 1977. I also serve as the Executive Director for the Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health, which is dedicated to improving access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare.

As an advocate for comprehensive reproductive healthcare, I am concerned that the misleading information provided by Crisis Pregnancy Centers is jeopardizing both patient safety and public health. There is a huge difference between the services provided by a Crisis Pregnancy Center and a Comprehensive Women's Medical Clinic:

- Comprehensive Women's Medical Clinics offer preventive, patient-focused care using medically accurate information that is based on scientific research, not scare tactics.
- If a woman is pregnant, Comprehensive Women's Medical Clinics are able to provide her with referrals for prenatal care; referrals for adoption information; and referrals for abortion services – all of which are provided in a non-directive and non-judgmental environment designed to support a women in making the decision that is best for her.
- If a woman is not pregnant, Comprehensive Women's Medical Clinics are able to provide her with contraception and family planning services; STD screening, diagnosis and treatment; and clinical breast exams and life-saving cancer screenings.
- If a woman is suspected to be a victim of domestic abuse or sexual assault, Comprehensive Women's Medical Clinics are able to provide her with referrals for support and licensed medical staff who comply with mandatory reporter laws.
- Comprehensive Women's Medical Clinics also follow HIPAA medical privacy laws to ensure that personal records are kept confidential.

Oregon women – especially vulnerable women facing an unplanned pregnancy – need to know whether they are entering a Comprehensive Women's Medical Clinic that will provide them with medically accurate, evidence-based information or if they are entering a Crisis Pregnancy Center that may look like a medical clinic but won't provide a comprehensive range of services. SB 490 establishes minimum consumer protection standards to promote truth and transparency for any woman who chooses to seek services from a Crisis Pregnancy Center.