

Re: SB490

As the Programs Director of the Pregnancy Alternatives Center in Lebanon Oregon I would like to encourage you to not consider SB490.

From what I understand about this bill it is stating that Pregnancy Resource Centers are discrete in what services they provide and pressure women not to abort. As one of the directors I need you to know Pregnancy Resource Centers are up front and honest organizations. In the Request for Services form that every person signs before receiving services states that referrals and procedures for abortions are not offered. There is no hidden agenda in the services provided.

As the one who trains the lay advocates I can testify that there is never guilt and judgment used to encourage the patient to choose life. Our lay advocates are trained to give information on all options; abortion, adoption, and parenting.

If the patient chooses to abort there is never judgment. In fact, many of our volunteers have had abortions. If they choose adoption we have resources to assist in this decision. If they choose parenting, PAC has an educational program that educates from pregnancy to age 3 years old. Because the community also wants to be a support to those who choose life in an unplanned pregnancy we have material resources and housing available.

The organizations do not charge for any of the services provided, therefore there is a need for volunteers. The volunteers are processed, interviewed, and approved by the directors. Any medical volunteers have a current license in their realm of operation.

Because many of our volunteers have had abortions we have an understanding on the impact that can have on a person, therefore we hope the patient doesn't choose the same path. But NEVER is there judgment and NEVER is there pressure. We encourage everyone to gain all the facts in their choices before making a decision.

Please do not pass SB490 and limit the services available to those in unplanned pregnancies.

Respectfully,

Becky Van Atta  
Programs Director