



**Testimony Before the  
Senate Health Care and Human Services regarding SB 490  
Presented by Dr. James Lace  
on behalf of the Oregon Medical Association  
April 1, 2013**

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. James Lace and I am the Chair of the Legislative Committee at the Oregon Medical Association. I am a pediatrician practicing in Salem.

The OMA supports SB 490 as a bill that protects patient safety by increasing transparency about the nature of services provided by crisis pregnancy centers. This bill ensures that clinics who do not employ a medically trained professional such as a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, nurse midwife or registered nurse, notify the patient of the nature of services provided on site and whether the services include a medical consultation with a medical professional. Patient notification and disclosure ensures that the patient, who is seeking pregnancy services in good faith, is made aware of the nature of the services and has access to records of any services performed.

Crisis pregnancy centers (CPC) attract vulnerable women at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives some of whom may be facing an unintended pregnancy. Crisis pregnancy centers are not medical clinics and do not generally employ licensed medical professionals. The majority of these centers do not provide medical services beyond an over-the-counter “home” pregnancy test and an ultrasound. Women who seek services at these “clinics” are often seeking comprehensive services for pregnancy and may only receive information about the services supported by the clinic. The CPC may provide misleading and inaccurate information about family planning and pregnancy options that include claims such as: abortion causes breast cancer and future infertility or that condoms are not effective in preventing pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections. These claims are not supported by peer reviewed medical research and lack any disclaimer or notification to this effect thus limiting the woman’s choice and jeopardizing her health and safety.

The OMA is further concerned that many of these facilities utilize ultrasound machines in a setting that generally fall outside the framework of typical medical clinics or facilities, making it unclear whether licensed professionals are interpreting the results. Proper ultrasound techniques and informed interpretation by licensed professionals ensure that the woman receives accurate results that don’t endanger her or her unborn child’s life.

SB 490 protects the personal information of women who may believe they are in a legitimate medical facility and have all the reasonable expectations of confidentiality and HIPAA protections regarding their personal health information. Accredited medical facilities are required to adhere to medical privacy laws established to protect patient safety. SB 490 requires the CPC to obtain the patient's permission before disclosing their personal health information.

The OMA urges your support for SB 490 to ensure every Oregonian clearly understands the nature of the services available at the facility and is assured their personal health information is protected.

I would like to thank you once again for the opportunity to address the committee regarding this very important topic and I'm happy to answer any questions.

**The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 8,100 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at [www.theOMA.org](http://www.theOMA.org).**