

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 490

Before the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

April 1, 2013

Maggie Penix

Dear Senator Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members:

My name is Maggie Penix. I am the Clinic Manager at Lane Pregnancy Support Center in Eugene. We are a medical clinic specializing in pregnancy diagnosis and decision making. Pregnancy Medical Clinic's offer a limited, but much needed scope of services to the women in our communities. Those services include pregnancy testing, decision coaching, and limited obstetrical ultrasound for the purpose of pregnancy diagnosis. Of course there are many services we don't provide. We choose to focus our messaging on the narrow scope of services we specialize in.

Each woman I serve is provided with a written Request for Services form to complete upon arrival. This form clearly states the services we provide. Through our patient centered services, I want each woman who visits our clinic to know: that it's her choice, she has time to decide, and that we will listen.

Many of the women I serve face unintended pregnancies and do not have the family or peer support necessary to work through their decision; whatever that may be. When a woman is faced with a life altering decision and unable to work through the decision making process; resulting in a decision that is her own, decisional regret often results.

Any woman who thinks she might be pregnant needs to know if she is in fact pregnant and how far along she is. This information is vital to her decision making process. We then refer all patients, pregnant or not, to physicians for continued care as their next step.

As the clinic manager, I interact with our patients. I serve women who make a variety of pregnancy related decisions, yet regardless the decision they make, comment that they found value in the services they received from our clinic.

Recently, one woman told me: *"Thank you so much for listening. This is exactly what I needed; someone to process my decision with. You were understanding of my critical timeframe without judging me in my situation."*

I do not know of any other place in the community that offers women a safe, peaceful, and unhurried environment to work through their decision regardless of the outcome they choose.

Here are some facts about our facilities:

- In 2012, Pregnancy Centers in the State of Oregon served over 15,000 women with free pregnancy tests, STD tests, and ultrasound exams saving the state over \$2 million in health care costs.
- All medical services are provided under the direction and supervision of an Oregon State licensed physician.
- We provided each client with a written description of services upon check in and a copy of their personal health information when requested.
- We provided free weekly parenting and infant support services to more than 10,000 women and men. Saving Oregonians over \$3 million worth of social services! These services are a critical part of Oregon's safety net for low-income women and children.
- We provided caring support and quality service free of charge to the women we served and over 99% of them said they would recommend our services to a friend in need!
- We did not receive any Federal or State financial support. Our centers are funded and supported by our local communities.
- Last year, they were supported by over 30,000 individuals and 1,100 businesses.
- Additionally, 2,500 individuals volunteered their time donating over 260,000 hours equating more than \$4 million in labor.

Women are referred to us from DHS, County Health Departments, Health Care Professionals, and other Service Organizations. We work with women who state their doctor referred them to our center because they were not sure what decision they would make about their pregnancy and their doctor thought they would be helped by the services we provide.

Women are resourceful and smart and they know where to go to get the services they desire. Oregon Pregnancy Centers exist to provide a choice of pregnancy services to the women in our communities. Please oppose Senate Bill 490. Thank you.