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# Joint Resolution Honoring Pregnancy Centers

*Model Legislation & Policy Guide*



*Advancing the Human Right to Life  
in Culture, Law, and Policy*

# INTRODUCTION

Year after year, pro-abortion advocacy desperately try to discredit, silence, and shut down pregnancy care centers (PCCs). These groups cannot tolerate the life-affirming solutions offered by these compassionate and trusted centers.

Instead, pro-abortion groups refer to PCCs as “fake centers” and produce kits for activists to target and “expose” PCCs with negative publicity and protests. The smear campaigns launched by abortion advocates stand in stark contrast to the words of the women and men who have experienced the real care and genuine hope offered by PCCs across the nation.

*“[The pregnancy center] offered me hope and assurance....”<sup>1</sup>*

*“The support and love the center showed me gave me the validation I was searching for all along.... It was about empowerment, guidance and support.... For the first time, I felt like I had choices and that I could make a genuine, confident decision.”<sup>2</sup>*

*“They sat down with me and helped me go over all my options, and they really listened to my needs. I didn’t feel judged; I just felt cared for.”<sup>3</sup>*

*“I was able to honestly express my fears and concerns. My peer counselor walked me through all of my options.... [The pregnancy care center] became my source of strength as well as information.”<sup>4</sup>*

*“At the center, they sat down with me, they listened to me, and they helped me think through all of my available options. I was so thankful for how much information they had to offer....”<sup>5</sup>*

*“I saw a sign that read, ‘Considering Abortion? Pregnancy Care Centers: Caring, Confidential, Trusted.’ It gave me a sense of comfort I hadn’t felt in weeks.”<sup>6</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Family Research Council, “A Passion to Serve, A Vision for Life (2009)” <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF09I51.pdf> (last visited August 9, 2017) (*Tia, Ma-chi and Ma-chiya’s Story*).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 9 (*Megan and Ava’s Story*).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 11 (*Tina and Isabella’s Story*).

<sup>4</sup> Care Net, “Success Stories: Summer Camp Counselors” <http://www.care-net.org/get-involved-blog/success-stories-summer-camp-counselors> (last visited August 9, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> Care Net, “Success Stories: Center Helps Sarah After a Rape” <http://www.care-net.org/get-involved-blog/success-stories-center-helps-sarah-after-a-rape> (last visited August 9, 2017).

<sup>6</sup> “A Passion to Serve: A Vision for Life,” *supra*, at 9 (*Megan and Ava’s Story*).

The positive impact of PCCs on the women and the communities they serve is considerable. Thousands of PCCs operate across the country, serving women with compassion and integrity. In 2010, PCCs served over 2.3 million people.<sup>1</sup> Notably, the services provided by PCCs saved communities across the nation over \$100 million, according to conservative estimates. Further, 71,000 PCC volunteers performed an estimated 5,705,000 uncompensated hours of work.<sup>7</sup>

PCCs are supporting women emotionally and financially, protecting them from the adverse health consequences of abortion and helping to reduce the number of abortions. Each year, the reach and influence of PCCs grows as more centers open, as public opinion on abortion increasingly shifts to a pro-life ethic, and as PCCs receive more favorable attention for their important work.

Further, pro-life legislators around the country continue to support the important work of PCCs. For example, in recent years and in the face of continuing economic concerns and state budget shortfalls, a number of states continue to consider measures to provide funding to organizations providing abortion alternatives, principally PCCs. This is accomplished through legislation creating “Choose Life” specialty license plate programs (which funnel the proceeds to organizations that promote life-saving alternatives to abortion) or by providing direct taxpayer subsidies to PCCs.

Support for PCCs is nonpartisan. Both Democrats and Republicans routinely commend the work of PCCs. For example, Representative Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.) has observed the successful role PCCs have played in improving the lives of women, communities, and the culture as a whole stating, “The success rates and national expansion of these pregnancy care centers are a testament to their invaluable work in the lives of communities and individuals over the years. These networks provide services that are often unavailable elsewhere to expectant mothers.”

However, at the behest of abortion advocacy groups, a small number of states have recently considered measures directly attacking the mission of or seeking to impose unnecessary regulations on PCCs. Although these state legislative efforts have been unsuccessful, there has been a notable increase in such measures since 2004. Having failed to gain traction for their efforts at the state level, abortion advocates have recently shifted their attention to proposing county, city, and other local ordinances attacking PCCs. Such local laws have

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<sup>7</sup> Family Research Council, “A Passion to Serve: How Pregnancy Resource Centers Empower Women, Help Families and Strengthen Communities (Second Edition) (2011),” *available at* <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12A47.pdf> (last visited August 9, 2017).

been enacted in Baltimore, Maryland, Montgomery County, Maryland, New York City, Austin, Texas, and San Francisco, California.

Thankfully, PCCs and their supporters have been largely successful in defeating state legislation and local ordinances often introduced at the behest of pro-abortion advocates and designed to undermine and ultimately close down PCCs. For example, in 2010, AUL worked with pro-life and pro-family advocates in Virginia to defeat (in both the House of Delegates and the Senate) a NARAL-inspired measure seeking to impose unnecessary and confusing regulations on PCCs. Instead, both houses later adopted AUL's model resolution commending the work of pregnancy centers.

To help educate legislators and the public on the positive impact of PCCs, Americans United for Life has developed this joint resolution honoring the work of PCCs. For more information or drafting assistance, please contact [Legislation@aul.org](mailto:Legislation@aul.org).

# JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS

JOINT RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_  
By Representatives/Senators \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the life-affirming impact of pregnancy care centers on the women, men, children, and communities they serve is considerable and growing;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers serve women in [*Insert name of State*] and across the United States with integrity and compassion;

WHEREAS, more than 2,500 pregnancy care centers across the United States provide comprehensive care to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies including resources to meet their physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers offer women free, confidential, and compassionate services including pregnancy tests, peer counseling, 24-hour telephone hotlines, childbirth and parenting classes, referrals to community health care, and other support services;

WHEREAS, many medical pregnancy care centers offer ultrasounds and other medical services;

WHEREAS, many pregnancy care centers provide information on adoption and adoption referrals to pregnant women;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers encourage women to make positive life choices by equipping them with complete and accurate information regarding their pregnancy options and the development of their unborn children;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers provide women with compassionate and confidential peer counseling in a nonjudgmental manner regardless of their pregnancy outcomes;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers provide important support and resources for women who choose childbirth over abortion;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers ensure that women are receiving prenatal information and services that lead to the birth of healthy infants;

WHEREAS, many pregnancy care centers provide grief assistance for women and men who regret the loss of their children from their past choices;

WHEREAS, many pregnancy care centers work to prevent unplanned pregnancies by teaching effective abstinence education in public schools;

WHEREAS, both federal and state governments are increasingly recognizing the valuable services of pregnancy care centers through the designation of public funds for such organizations; [*and*]

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers operate primarily through reliance on the voluntary donations and time of individuals who are committed to caring for the needs of women and promoting and protecting life. [*; and*]

[OPTIONAL (*consider adding only in states where PCCs have been publicly accused by a legislator, abortion-advocacy group, or another group or organization of false advertising or other deceptive practices*): *WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers provide full disclosure, in both their advertisements and direct contact with women, of the types of services they provide.*]

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [LEGISLATURE] OF THE STATE OF [INSERT NAME OF STATE]:

**Section 1.** That the [Legislature] strongly supports pregnancy care centers in their unique, positive contributions to the individual lives of women, men, and babies—both born and unborn.

**Section 2.** That the [Legislature] commends the compassionate work of tens of thousands of volunteers and paid staff at pregnancy care centers in [Insert name of State] and across the United States.

**Section 3.** That the [Legislature] strongly encourages the Congress of the United States and other federal and state government agencies to grant pregnancy care centers assistance for medical equipment and abstinence education in a manner that does not compromise the mission or religious integrity of these organizations.

**Section 4.** That the [Legislature] disapproves of the actions of any national, state, or local groups attempting to prevent pregnancy care centers from effectively serving women and men facing unplanned pregnancies.

**Section 5.** That the Secretary of State of [Insert name of State] transmit a copy of this resolution to each pregnancy care center in [Insert name of State], to the Governor, to the President of the United States, and to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

For further information regarding this or other AUL policy guides, please contact:

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