

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 182

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Condemns deceptive practices of certain crisis pregnancy centers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/28/2018)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** condemning the deceptive practices of
2 certain crisis pregnancy centers.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, A crisis pregnancy center (CPC) is a type of nonprofit
5 organization established to counsel pregnant women against having
6 an abortion; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The majority of CPCs are run by religious organizations
8 and the services they provide are based on a conservative Christian
9 philosophy; and
10 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, CPCs are generally run by New Jersey
11 Right to Life; and
12 **WHEREAS**, CPCs provide pregnant women, and those who may be
13 pregnant, peer counseling services related to abortion, pregnancy,
14 and childbirth, and may offer financial assistance, child-rearing
15 resources, adoption, and other non-medical service; and
16 **WHEREAS**, While CPCs often look like abortion clinics and are
17 intentionally located near such clinics, most CPCs are not legally
18 licensed as medical centers and do not offer medical services; and
19 **WHEREAS**, CPCs that are licensed as medical clinics may provide
20 pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, sonograms, and other pregnancy
21 related services, largely so that the centers can attempt to convince
22 women to carry their pregnancies to term; and
23 **WHEREAS**, CPCs have been known to disseminate false medical
24 information about the physical and mental health risks of abortion,
25 the effectiveness of condoms, the prevention of sexually transmitted
26 infections, and the stage of a woman's pregnancy; and
27 **WHEREAS**, CPCs have also been criticized for engaging in deceptive
28 advertising practices; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Some CPCs falsely advertise abortion services, attracting
30 clients who wish to have an abortion. Others attract women by
31 offering free pregnancy tests but presenting them with religious
32 arguments against abortion; and
33 **WHEREAS**, CPCs are often located in communities where there are
34 high numbers of women of color and use billboards specifically
35 targeting African American women seeking abortions; and
36 **WHEREAS**, CPCs use rhetoric, advertising language, and telephone
37 directory listing similar to those of abortion providers to mislead
38 pregnant women who are seeking abortions to contact a CPC; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Although certain CPCs hire licensed health care
40 professionals, many do not, and as a result, women may receive
41 misinformation, including incorrect due dates, that could delay the
42 delivery of prenatal care, and can be dangerous to the health of
43 women who visit these clinics; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Lawsuits that have been filed against a number of CPCs
45 have determined that such centers engage in false advertising and
46 have required them to change their methods or led to settlements
47 where the centers agreed to do so; and

1 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that this House condemn strongly
2 the deceptive practices of certain crisis pregnancy centers operating
3 in this State and throughout the country in order to prevent delays
4 in the delivery of prenatal care and to protect the health of women
5 who visit these clinics; now, therefore,

6
7 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
8 *Jersey:*

9
10 1. This House condemns strongly the deceptive practices of
11 certain crisis pregnancy centers operating in this State and
12 throughout the country in order to prevent delays in the delivery of
13 prenatal care and to protect the health of women who visit these
14 clinics.

15
16 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
17 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
18 Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Commissioner of Health,
19 and New Jersey Right to Life.

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STATEMENT

23

24 Crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) have been known to
25 disseminate false medical information about the physical and
26 mental health risks of abortion, the effectiveness of condoms, the
27 prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and the stage of a
28 woman's pregnancy.

29 CPCs have also been known to engage in deceptive advertising
30 practices by falsely advertising abortion services, attracting clients
31 who wish to have an abortion, offering free pregnancy tests but
32 presenting them with religious arguments against abortion, and
33 using billboards specifically targeting African American women
34 seeking abortions.

35 Lawsuits filed against a number of CPCs have determined that
36 such centers engage in false advertising and have required them to
37 change their methods or led to settlements where the centers agreed
38 to do so.

39 This resolution strongly condemns the deceptive practices of
40 certain crisis pregnancy centers operating in this State and
41 throughout the country in order to prevent delays in the delivery of
42 prenatal care and to protect the health of women who visit these
43 clinics.