



**To: Chair Bob Lynn, Vice Chair Dennis Mannion, and the House Judiciary Committee**  
**Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1416, an act prohibiting certain government regulations regarding pregnancy resource centers in connection with abortion and contraception service offerings.**  
**Date: February 25, 2026**  
**Position: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

### Background

Reproductive Equity Now works across New England to make equitable access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care a reality for all people. Advancing reproductive justice and eliminating barriers to abortion care are central to our mission.

HB 1416 aims to prohibit certain future oversight of so-called “pregnancy resource centers,” some of which claim to provide medical care to Granite State residents. As per state statute, medical care in New Hampshire is governed by the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees facility licensing, and the New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, which oversees 35 health professional boards in the state that set professional licensing, practice oversight, and administrative rulemaking requirements for health care delivery.<sup>1</sup> Clearly any facility, including any so-called “pregnancy resource center”, that provides medical services needs to be subject to licensing, practice oversight and other regulatory requirements just like any other medical provider within the Granite State. With respect to any facility not currently providing medical services, such facilities should not be pre-emptively and categorically exempt from future licensing, practice oversight and other regulatory requirements should they begin to provide medical services that may be appropriate in the future. Exempting an entire category of service providers from professional oversight potentially limits the right and obligation of New Hampshire’s agencies to enact reasonable protections for future New Hampshire patients.

### So called “pregnancy resource centers” are already afforded broad constitutional protections

This legislation is unnecessary as so-called “pregnancy resource centers” are already afforded broad constitutional protections that HB 1416 seeks to govern. In *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that so-called crisis pregnancy centers are entitled to robust First Amendment protections against compelled speech.<sup>2</sup> In this case, the Court

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<sup>1</sup> *Health Facilities Administration*, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/doing-business-dhhs/licensing-certification/health-facilities-administration>, (last visited Feb. 24, 2026); *Regulatory & Licensure Compliance*, NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, [https://www.nhha.org/healthcare-priorities/regulatory-licensure-compliance/#:~:text=The%20NH%20Office%20of%20Professional%20Licensure%20and,\\*%20Centers%20for%20Medicaid%20&%20Medicare%20Services](https://www.nhha.org/healthcare-priorities/regulatory-licensure-compliance/#:~:text=The%20NH%20Office%20of%20Professional%20Licensure%20and,*%20Centers%20for%20Medicaid%20&%20Medicare%20Services), (last visited Feb. 24, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra*, 585 U.S. 755 (2018).

struck down a California law which required licensed centers to provide notices about state-sponsored abortion services and unlicensed centers to disclose their status, ruling that the government may not compel private speakers to deliver messages with which they disagree.<sup>3</sup> HB 1416 seeks to prohibit this type of regulation, but these so-called pregnancy resource centers already retain broad First Amendment protection from laws that force them to promote or advertise abortion services contrary to their mission.

Many so called “pregnancy resource centers” do not provide comprehensive reproductive health care

**HB 1416 falsely asserts that so-called “pregnancy resource centers” provide “comprehensive care” and “complete and accurate information regarding [...] pregnancy options.” In reality, some of these centers often seek to dissuade people from accessing abortion care, sometimes providing patients with misleading and non-factual information and promoting medical disinformation.<sup>4</sup>**

For decades, medical and professional organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing (AWHONN) have recommended a patient-centered approach for pregnancy options counseling.<sup>5</sup> This approach empowers patients to make the best decisions for them based on their health history and personal values. It advises them on all options, including parenting and adoption, and pregnancy termination. This patient-centered approach centers the wants and needs of the patient and ensures that providers are connecting patients with the appropriate information and referrals, including to pregnancy-related care or abortion care.

So-called “pregnancy resource centers” are widely denounced by leading medical and professional organizations for their unethical practices. The American Medical Association (AMA), American Public Health Association (APHA), Society for Adolescent Health & Medicine (SAHM), and American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) all warn against the potential dangers of these centers and advocate for patients in need of pregnancy counseling to avoid them when

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> See *Issue Brief: Crisis Pregnancy Centers*, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS, <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/abortion-is-essential/trending-issues/issue-brief-crisis-pregnancy-centers> (last visited Feb. 6, 2026); see also Casey Tolan, et al., *The crisis pregnancy center next door: How taxpayer money intended for poor families is funding a growing anti-abortion movement*, CNN (Oct. 25, 2022), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/25/us/crisis-pregnancy-centers-taxpayer-money-invs>.

<sup>5</sup> Kristen Nobel, et al., *Patient-reported experience with discussion of all options during pregnancy options counseling in the US South*, 106 *CONTRACEPTION* 68, 68-74 (Feb. 2022).

seeking care.<sup>6</sup> Myriad examples show that these centers, often not governed by state licensure or professional standards, do not uphold medical standards of care and can put patients seeking pregnancy care in harm's way. In Kentucky, for example, some so-called "pregnancy resource centers" used expired disinfectant to clean ultrasound probes, and in Massachusetts, a patient was allegedly diagnosed with a healthy pregnancy at a so-called "pregnancy resource center" but later required emergency surgery to treat an ectopic pregnancy.<sup>7</sup>

Many so called "pregnancy resource centers" do not provide confidential services and are often not subject to professional oversight

**HB 1416 falsely asserts that so-called "pregnancy resource centers" provide "confidential services." In reality, so-called "pregnancy resource centers," are often not regulated by any medical standards or guidelines and are often subject to no professional oversight. Many of these centers are not bound by the obligations of HIPAA, a federal law that protects patient privacy and data in medical institutions, nor are they governed by the New Hampshire Board of Medicine or the New Hampshire Board of Nursing.<sup>8</sup>**

Heartbeat International, an anti-abortion organization that serves as the parent organization to nearly 3,000 so-called "pregnancy resource centers" nationwide, has stated publicly that they store "digital dossiers" on any patient that comes into contact with any of their affiliates.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, a 2022 report by the Alliance of State Advocates for Women's Rights revealed that Heartbeat International works alongside other national anti-abortion networks that oversee so-called "pregnancy resources centers," including Carenet and Your Options Medical, to collectively store patient data on proprietary software.<sup>10</sup> This enables these anti-abortion networks to share patient information across facilities without patient knowledge or consent.

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<sup>6</sup> See Amy Bryant & Jonas Swartz, *Why Crisis Pregnancy Centers Are Legal but Unethical*, AMA J. ETHICS (Mar. 2018), <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/why-crisis-pregnancy-centers-are-legal-unethical/2018-03>; see also *Regulating Disclosure of Services and Sponsorship of Crisis Pregnancy Centers*, AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, (Nov. 1, 2011) <https://www.apha.org/policy-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-briefs/policy-database/2014/07/22/08/33/regulating-disclosure-of-services-and-sponsorship-of-crisis-pregnancy-centers>; see also *Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the U.S.: Lack of Adherence to Medical and Ethical Practice Standards*, 65 J. ADOLESCENT HEALTH 821, 821-824 (Oct. 28, 2019); see also *Issue Brief: Crisis Pregnancy Centers*, supra note 5.

<sup>7</sup> Laura Morel, *'It's a public health risk': nurse decries infection control at US anti-abortion crisis center*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 2, 2023), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/02/kentucky-crisis-pregnancy-center-anti-abortion-malpractices>; Kiernan Dunlop, *Worcester woman suing Clearway Clinic claims missed diagnosis put her life at risk*, MASS LIVE (June 23, 2023), <https://www.masslive.com/worcester/2023/06/worcester-woman-suing-clearway-clinic-claims-missed-diagnosis-put-her-life-at-risk.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Xenia Ellenbogen, *So-called 'crisis pregnancy centers' are surveilling clients and may help criminalize them, reproductive advocates say*, PRISM (Aug. 24, 2022), <https://prismreports.org/2022/08/24/anti-abortion-centers-surveilling-criminalizing-clients/>.

<sup>9</sup> *The CPC Industry as a Surveillance Tool of the Post-Roe State*, THE ALLIANCE (Feb. 2022), [https://alliancestateadvocates.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/107/Alliance\\_CPC\\_Report\\_Feb2022\\_UrgentBrief2-10-22.pdf](https://alliancestateadvocates.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/107/Alliance_CPC_Report_Feb2022_UrgentBrief2-10-22.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> See *id.*

As of 2023, Reproductive Health and Freedom Watch had identified four so-called “pregnancy resource centers” in New Hampshire as appearing to be affiliated with Heartbeat International, raising serious privacy concerns for Granite Staters who have accessed services at these centers.<sup>11</sup>

### Conclusion

Reproductive Equity Now encourages your opposition to HB 1416 and is committed to working further with legislators, community leaders, and advocates alike to ensure its defeat. We thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony and urge you to reject this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>11</sup> See *Unregulated Pregnancy Clinic Finance Watch 2023*, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FREEDOM WATCH, <https://reproductivehealthfreedom.us/2023-data/>, (last visited Feb. 24, 2026).