

## Who is Deceiving Who?

Pregnancy resource centers provide free, valuable services to the women of our community at little or no cost to taxpayers. They are “there” for the pregnant woman; listening to her fears, counseling her on positive life-changing choices, and providing direct assistance or referrals throughout the pregnancy and beyond, as needed. Testimonies by clients abound on the internet. On Oakland University Students for Life chapter's website, a 24 year old father of a 4 year old girl wrote “*Many people know [crisis pregnancy centers] as affiliated with pro-life 'propaganda', where they 'brainwash' people into not having an abortion. It is very rare to ever encounter a center which acts in this way. Many would be surprised to find how helpful these places can be. ... They offer real help in a variety of ways including: pregnancy tests, free ultrasounds, material assistance, assistance in finding a job, financial planning, and even educational resources. These things are provided confidentially, and nothing is required to be given in return. ... [M]any, if not most, have resources and counseling available to men as well!*”. In July, Heartbeat International sponsored several mothers who went to Washington, DC and spoke to Congressional staff on behalf of pregnancy resource centers.

In spite of these endorsements, NARAL ProChoice is leading an effort to discredit and hamstring the pregnancy centers. NARAL and its allies in government claim that pregnancy centers deceive women.<sup>2</sup> A 2006 study authorized by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) erroneously found that pregnancy resource centers (1) provide “false and misleading information” about the adverse health effects of abortion on mental health and future fertility as well as a link between abortion and breast cancer and (2) fail to disclose upfront that they do not provide abortion services or referrals. This premise, itself, is false. According to neutral experts and observers, abortion (especially post-1<sup>st</sup> trimester or multiple abortions) can lead to incompetent cervix (a cause of miscarriage or premature delivery) or pelvic inflammatory disease (PID, a cause of infertility and ectopic pregnancy)<sup>3</sup>, and, yes, is also associated with an increased risk of breast cancer<sup>4</sup> per a researcher with the NIH. Self-described abortion-neutral website, AfterAbortion.com provides “resources for women dealing with Post Abortion Stress Syndrome”.<sup>5</sup> PDF documents referencing this information by these neutral parties can be found at the Oakland County Right to Life website under “Abortion Facts and Stats” ([www.oaklandrtl.org](http://www.oaklandrtl.org)).

Some cities have passed ordinances mandating pregnancy centers to post signs informing the public that the center does not provide abortions or referrals. These ordinances protect a woman from the risk of discovering that she doesn't have to have an abortion. A simpler solution is for the woman to walk out of the pregnancy center if she does want an abortion. But NARAL seems to lack confidence that women are capable of recognizing the difference between an abortion provider and a pregnancy center. At NARAL's urging, Rep. Carolyn Mahoney (D-NY) has introduced legislation to impose increased FCC oversight of pregnancy center advertising, without an equivalent requirement for abortion centers.<sup>6</sup>

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1 The Joys of Being a Young Parent: The testimony of an OU Student (Sept 2007)From the Oakland University Students for Life chapter ( <http://stuorgs.oakland.edu/?id=453&sid=6>)

2 “Choosing Lies and Deception: Crisis Centers in North Carolina, NARAL ProChoice North Carolina ; [www.prochoicenc.org/assets/files/cpcdocument.pdf](http://www.prochoicenc.org/assets/files/cpcdocument.pdf) (internet accessed, August 23, 2010)

“False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers” Prepared for Rep. Henry Waxman, July 2006 (internet accessed, April 19, 2010)

3 “Informed Consent for Abortion” Michigan Dept of Community Health [www.mi.gov/mdch](http://www.mi.gov/mdch) (internet accessed April 19, 2010) **Preventing pelvic infection after abortion. Stevenson MM, Radcliffe KW.** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8547409> (Internet accessed April 19, 2010)

4 “Risk Factors for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer in Women under age 45” Jessica Dolle, et al, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute. Table 1. Published online March 31, 2009, <http://cebp.aacrjournals.org>; Internet accessed August 24, 2010. See also [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2754710](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2754710)

5 “So you've had an abortion.. Think you're alone?”, [www.afterabortion.com](http://www.afterabortion.com) (internet accessed April 19, 2010)

6 “Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women’s Services Act” was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and the Senate companion by Sen. Menendez (D-NJ)

What about the women? One woman, after seeing “12<sup>th</sup> and Delaware”, a documentary about an abortion center and a pregnancy center in Fort Pierce, FL posted this comment on YouTube, *“this really hits close to home for me because i have had an abortion at 12th and delaware and I have also gone across the street to pregnancy care center when I carried out my last pregnancy where I had my pregnancy test and first ultrasound. I believe that if I had gone to pregnancy care center first that I would have never had the abortion at 17.”*<sup>7</sup>

What do you suppose this young woman meant? Did she mean that the pregnancy center would have “brainwashed” her? Or did she mean that she would have made a different choice if she had found “real help” at the abortion center.

Congressman Gary Peters, who has voted Yes on every piece of abortion-expanding legislation<sup>8</sup>, should still reject the character assassination of pregnancy centers by his pro-abortion extremist, fellow Democrat colleagues, Rep. Carolyn Mahoney and Henry Waxman. Oakland County voters should insist their representatives reject the abortion promoting agenda in the Democratic party platform. Please support your local pregnancy resource center, which can be found in the Yellow pages under “Abortion Alternatives” or at [www.oaklandrtl.org](http://www.oaklandrtl.org) under Links/Help.

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<sup>7</sup> [www.youtube.com/comment\\_servlet?all\\_comments=1&v=PA-5doRMJZg](http://www.youtube.com/comment_servlet?all_comments=1&v=PA-5doRMJZg) '12th and Delaware': A look at an Abortion Clinic and Anti-Abortion Center 1

<sup>8</sup> NRLC scorecard <http://www.capwiz.com/nrlc/scorecard.xc>, Internet accessed August 27, 2010