

Representative Tina Liebling
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

January 17, 2023

Chair Liebling,

On behalf of RHA (Reproductive Health Alliance), I submit this written testimony in support of a change in funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers through support of the Positive Pregnancies Bill hf289.

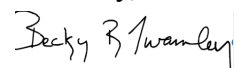
RHA is a coalition of more than 40 reproductive and sexual health clinics, advocacy organizations and individuals across the state of Minnesota. Our clinics are designated as essential community providers by the Minnesota Department of Health. We provide affordable access to medical care including contraception, HIV and STI testing and treatment and evidence based information to the most vulnerable populations across the state.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) do not provide medical care and do not staff medical professionals. Public funding should support evidence-based programs. Funding CPCs as medical providers does great harm to the people they serve and undermines legitimate healthcare. People deserve all of the information about choices available to them when pregnant, not medical advice based on ideology and coercion. Study after study has shown that disinformation and deception are common among CPCs, not only regarding abortion but also regarding hormonal contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, condom use and sexuality.

Funding CPC's as healthcare siphons money from pregnant people and children living in poverty. Instead of addressing factors that lead people to CPCs, funding these fake pregnancy centers delays and prevents access to comprehensive reproductive health care.

The State of MN should not fund CPCs as health care. Minnesotans and their families deserve better. RHA supports the Positive Pregnancies Bill hf289.

Sincerely,



Becky R. Twamley, RPh MPS
Executive Director, WeARE-The Clinic, Brainerd MN
Board Chair, RHA