



Written Testimony of Chris Massoglia
Digital Marketing Manager, Americans United for Life
In Support of H.F. No. 25
Submitted to the House Committee on Health Finance and Policy
February 12, 2025

Dear Chair Backer, Vice-Chair Nadeau, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chris Massoglia, and I serve as Digital Marketing Manager at Americans United for Life (“AUL”). Established in 1971, AUL is a national law and policy nonprofit organization with a specialization in abortion, end-of-life issues, and bioethics law. AUL publishes pro-life model legislation and policy guides,¹ tracks state bioethics legislation,² and regularly testifies on pro-life legislation in Congress and the states. Our vision at AUL is to strive for a world where everyone is welcomed in life and protected in law. As Policy Counsel, I specialize in life-related legislation, constitutional law, and abortion jurisprudence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 25 (“H.F. 25” or “bill”), which establishes a grant program for life-affirming maternity homes and pregnancy resource centers (PRCs). By providing a program for maternity homes and PRCs to receive funding, this bill ensures that more underserved women will receive quality professional care, at usually no cost to them. For this reason, I strongly urge the Committee to support this bill.

I. H.F. 25 Allows PRCs and Maternity Homes to Provide Essential Services to More Pregnant Women

¹ *Pro-Life Model Legislation and Guides*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE, <https://aul.org/law-and-policy/> (last visited Feb. 10, 2025). AUL is the original drafter of many of the hundreds of pro-life bills enacted in the States in recent years. See Olga Khazan, *Planning the End of Abortion*, ATLANTIC (July 16, 2020), www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/what-pro-life-activists-really-want/398297/ (“State legislatures have enacted a slew of abortion restrictions in recent years. Americans United for Life wrote most of them.”); see also Anne Ryman & Matt Wynn, *For Anti-Abortion Activists, Success of ‘Heartbeat’ Bills was 10 Years in the Making*, CTR. PUB. INTEGRITY (Jun. 20, 2019), <https://publicintegrity.org/politics/state-politics/copy-paste-legislate/for-anti-abortion-activists-success-of-heartbeat-bills-was-10-years-in-the-making/> (“The *USA TODAY/Arizona Republic* analysis found Americans United for Life was behind the bulk of the more than 400 copycat [anti-]abortion bills introduced in 41 states.”).

² *State Spotlight*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE, <https://aul.org/law-and-policy/state-spotlight/> (last visited Feb. 10, 2025).

Over the past 50 years, PRCs and maternity homes have provided invaluable, free services to low-income women across the United States. According to a 2024 report, 2,750 PRCs served **16,050,312** people in the United States in 2022 alone.³ This included 546,683 free ultrasounds, 703,835 free pregnancy tests, 203,171 free STI/STD tests and counseling, and 3,590,911 free packs of diapers.⁴ In 2022, the estimated value of PRC's services was **\$367,896,513**, which highlights the incredible community resource these centers have become.⁵

Minnesota has at least 90 PRCs and 6 maternity homes throughout the state. PRCs have been faithfully serving the women of Minnesota for years, offering free resources such as medical quality pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, confidential pregnancy services, testing for STIs and STDs, counseling, parenting classes, material assistance, and post-abortion care. In 2022, Minnesota PRCs provided **\$8,317,423** worth of free resources and services to 28,050 women, men, and youth, including \$3,337,145 in medical services, \$2,788,676 in education and support services, and \$2,191,602 in material items.⁶ Similarly, maternity homes in the state are an invaluable community resource, providing safe housing to pregnant women in crisis or women who are homeless.

The need for PRCs and maternity homes has become even more pressing now that women are increasingly rejecting elective abortion and choosing to keep their babies. The abortion rate is nearly half of what it was in the 1980s after *Roe v. Wade* was decided.⁷ Despite the common narrative, women are recognizing that they do not need abortion to have success and equality in American society.⁸ Thus, when women are offered options other than abortion, they choose life. PRCs inform women of the alternatives to abortion and provide support throughout their pregnancies and postpartum while maternity homes provide safe housing for pregnant women. Abortion clinics, on the other hand, do anything but help women.⁹ AUL's investigative report,

³ Charlotte Lozier Institute, et al., *Pregnancy Centers Offer Hope for a New Generation: A Legacy of Life & Love Report Series 2022*, 8 (2024), <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Pregnancy-Center-2024-Update-full-1.pdf>.

⁴ *Id.* at 19.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Charlotte Lozier Institute, *Pregnancy Center State Impact Report – 2022 Data*, <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Minnesota-2022-State-Impact-Report.pdf> (last visited Feb. 10, 2025).

⁷ *Compare Surveillance Summary Abortion Surveillance: Preliminary Analysis, 1979-1980 – United States*, CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION (Feb. 11, 1983), <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00001243.htm#:~:text=Over%20the%20%2Dyear%20period,women%20aged%2015%20to%2044,with> CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION, 73 SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES 1-28, ABORTION SURVEILLANCE—UNITED STATES, 2022 (Nov. 28, 2024).

⁸ See, e.g., Helen M. Alvaré, *Nearly 50 Years Post-Roe v. Wade and Nearing Its End: What is the Evidence that Abortion Advances Women's Health and Equality?* 34 REGENT U.L. REV. 165, 208 (2022) (documenting the testimony in legislative hearings in several states).

⁹ See, e.g., Michael J. New, *Pregnancy Centers Offer Better Service Than Abortion Facilities, a New Study Shows*, Nat'l Rev. (Feb. 5, 2023), <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/pregnancy-centers-offer-better-service-than-abortion-facilities-a-new-study-shows/> (study comparing 445 abortion facilities with

Unsafe, highlights the lack of regulatory framework for inspecting Minnesota abortion clinics.¹⁰

This bill acknowledges the invaluable services that PRCs and maternity homes offer to the women of Minnesota by establishing a program that provides grants to qualifying organizations. Accordingly, the bill appropriates \$4,000,000 for the grant program in 2026 and 2027. The program requires PRCs that receive a grant to use the funds “for programs and services to support, encourage, and assist pregnant women in carrying their pregnancies to term and in caring for their children after birth.” Likewise, the program requires maternity homes that receive a grant to use the funds for “housing, supervision, and programs and services to support, encourage, and assist pregnant women in carrying their pregnancies to term and in caring for their children after birth.” In order for a PRC or maternity home to receive a grant, the bill also requires that the organization has “a privacy policy and procedures in place to ensure that . . . information is not made public or shared . . . without the woman’s written consent,” including clients’ personal identification information, and communications between PRCs or maternity homes and their clients.

Establishing a program that awards grants to PRCs is especially important given that these centers largely rely on contributions from their community to continue providing free, professional care to women. For example, “at least 90 percent of funding for pregnancy [resource] centers is raised locally at the community level”¹¹ As PRCs and maternity homes receive additional financial support from the grant program, they will be able assist more pregnant woman in Minnesota.

II. Other States Have Successfully Established Similar Life-Affirming Programs

Numerous states have enacted legislation that supports the great work of pro-woman and pro-family organizations through a variety of mechanisms. At least 18 states “have authorized some form of alternatives to abortion [] funding to” PRCs, maternity homes, and other life-affirming organizations.¹² “Fourteen [] of these states actively distribute funds to [pregnancy help organizations] or contract agencies for [pregnancy help organizations].”¹³ “Ten[] states have traditionally used one or more contract

nearby pregnancies centers, finding strong statistical evidence that pre-life pregnancy centers offer better and less expensive services than abortion facilities).

¹⁰ See, e.g., Ams. United for Life, *Unsafe* 68 (2d ed. 2018) (report documenting the unsafe practice of abortion providers across the United States).

¹¹ Moria Gaul, *Fact Sheet: Pregnancy Centers – Serving Women and Saving Lives (2020 Study)*, CHARLOTTE LOZIER INST. (July 19, 2021), https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-pregnancy-centers-serving-women-and-saving-lives-2020/#_ftn8.

¹² Jeanneane Maxon, *Fact Sheet: State Alternatives to Abortion Funding*, CHARLOTTE LOZIER INST. (Oct. 13, 2023), <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-state-alternatives-to-abortion-funding/#:~:text=As%20of%20September%202023%2C%20eighteen,life%2Daffirming%20social%20service%20agencies.>

¹³ *Id.*

agencies to assist in distributing funding or managing the state's programs.”¹⁴ “At least five [] states distribute a portion of their . . . TANF . . . funding to [pregnancy help organizations].”¹⁵ And “eleven [] states require providers to invoice for reimbursement for services rendered, either directly to the state or through their contract agency.”¹⁶

Many women seek abortion because of financial considerations, timing of the pregnancy, partner related reasons, and childcare concerns.¹⁷ PRCs and maternity homes can help address these concerns so that women feel empowered to choose life. Thus, this bill will allow the state to help meet the needs of many underserved women throughout their pregnancy and afterwards.

III. Conclusion

By establishing a grant program for life-affirming organizations such as PRCs and maternity homes, this bill will ensure that more women in Minnesota receive free and essential professional care and housing during their pregnancies. For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,



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AMERICANS UNITED FOR LIFE

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ M. Antonia Biggs et al., *Understanding Why Women Seek Abortions in the US*, 13 BMC WOMEN'S HEALTH 1, 1 (2013).