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# JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS

Model Resolution & Policy Guide  
*For the 2012 Legislative Year*



*Changing Law to Protect Human Life, State by State*

# INTRODUCTION

The life-affirming impact of pregnancy care centers (“PCCs”) on the women and the communities they serve is already considerable. Each year, the reach and influence of PCCs grows as more centers open, as public opinion on abortion increasingly shifts to a pro-life ethic, and as PCCs receive more favorable attention for their important work. Today, thousands of PCCs operate across the country, serving women with compassion and integrity and offering them positive alternatives to unplanned pregnancies.

Perhaps there is no better indicator of the positive impact that PCCs are having by supporting women emotionally and financially, by protecting women from the adverse health consequences of abortion, and by helping to reduce the number of abortions performed each year than the increasing vitriol directed toward these centers by pro-abortion advocacy groups. These groups refer to them as “fake centers” and produce kits for activists to target and “expose” PCCs with negative publicity and protests. Even they, in their zeal to promote abortion-on-demand, cannot ignore the very real and increasingly powerful impact PCCs are having on women and on public opinion about abortion.

As the positive outreach of the nation’s PCCs has continued to expand, so too have attempts by pro-life legislators around the country to support this important work. In 2011, in the face of continuing economic concerns and state budget shortfalls, a number of states still considered measures to provide funding to organizations providing abortion alternatives, principally PCCs. This was accomplished through legislation creating “Choose Life” specialty license plate programs or providing direct taxpayer subsidies to PCCs.

However, in an ominous trend, a small number of states considered measures directly attacking the mission of or seeking to impose unnecessary regulations on PCCs. There has been a notable increase in such measures since 2004.

For example, in 2007, Oregon, at the behest of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon and NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, considered a measure establishing and funding a study committee to “review the policies and procedures” of state PCCs. The legislation proposed that Oregon fund a “study commission” that would seek to confirm its premise: PCCs are “fake clinics” that intentionally lie to and mislead women. Although the legislation was handily defeated by an educational campaign led by national and local PCC supporters, it is, arguably, a new and provocative tactic being pursued by abortion advocates to close down PCCs and to short-circuit meaningful debate about abortion and its negative impact on women. Sadly, Oregon has not been the only state to target PCCs with legislation rooted in pro-abortion rhetoric and bias.

Faced with an inability to pass state legislation targeting PCCs, abortion advocates have recently shifted their attention to proposing county, city, and other local ordinances attacking pregnancy

centers. Such local laws have been enacted in Baltimore, Maryland, Montgomery County, Maryland, New York City, and Austin, Texas.

Federal district courts have enjoined the laws – in whole or in part -- in Baltimore, Montgomery County, and New York City, holding that they impermissibly restricted the freedom of speech.

However, abortion-advocates continue to target PCCs. Instigated by NARAL Pro-Choice California, anti-PCC legislation has been introduced in San Francisco and a local PCC is being threatened with litigation by a city attorney.

Thankfully, PCCs and their supporters have been largely successful in defeating state legislation and local ordinances often introduced at the behest of pro-abortion advocates and designed to undermine and ultimately close down PCCs. For example, in 2010, AUL worked with pro-life and pro-family advocates in Virginia to defeat (in both the House of Delegates and the Senate) a NARAL-inspired measure seeking to impose unnecessary and confusing regulations on PCCs. Instead, both houses later adopted AUL's model resolution commending the work of pregnancy centers.

Oklahoma passed a similar resolution honoring PCCs in 2010. In 2011, nine state legislatures – Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Missouri, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin – adopted resolutions commending the work of PCCs. This increased legislative activity is a testament to the positive work and impact of PCCs and other groups and organizations providing women with positive alternatives to abortion.

To help educate legislators and the public on the positive impact of PCCs, Americans United for Life has developed this joint resolution honoring the work of PCCs. For more information and drafting assistance, please contact AUL's Legislative Coordinator at (202) 741-4907 or [Legislation@AUL.org](mailto:Legislation@AUL.org).

**DENISE M. BURKE, ESQ.**  
*Vice President of Legal Affairs*  
*Americans United for Life*

# JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS

**JOINT RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**  
**BY REPRESENTATIVES/SENATORS \_\_\_\_\_**

WHEREAS, the life-affirming impact of pregnancy care centers on the women, men, children, and communities they serve is considerable and growing;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers serve women in [*Insert name of State*] and across the United States with integrity and compassion;

WHEREAS, more than 2,500 pregnancy care centers across the United States provide comprehensive care to women and men facing unplanned pregnancies, including resources to meet their physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers offer women free, confidential, and compassionate services, including pregnancy tests, peer counseling, 24-hour telephone hotlines, childbirth and parenting classes, and referrals to community, health care, and other support services;

WHEREAS, many medical pregnancy care centers offer ultrasounds and other medical services;

WHEREAS, many pregnancy care centers provide information on adoption and adoption referrals to pregnant women;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers encourage women to make positive life choices by equipping them with complete and accurate information regarding their pregnancy options and the development of their unborn children;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers provide women with compassionate and confidential peer counseling in a nonjudgmental manner regardless of their pregnancy outcomes;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers provide important support and resources for women who choose childbirth over abortion;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers ensure that women are receiving prenatal information and services that lead to the birth of healthy infants;

WHEREAS, many pregnancy care centers provide grief assistance for women and men who regret the loss of their children from past choices they have made;

WHEREAS, many pregnancy care centers work to prevent unplanned pregnancies by teaching effective abstinence education in public schools;

WHEREAS, both federal and state governments are increasingly recognizing the valuable services of pregnancy care centers through the designation of public funds for such organizations;

WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers operate primarily through reliance on the voluntary donations and time of individuals who are committed to caring for the needs of women and promoting and protecting life. [; *and*]

[OPTIONAL (*consider adding only in states where PCCs have been publically accused by a legislator, abortion-advocacy group, or another party of false advertising or other deceptive practices*): WHEREAS, pregnancy care centers provide full disclosure, in both their advertisements and direct contact with women, of the types of services they provide].

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [LEGISLATURE] OF THE STATE OF [Insert name of State]:

**Section 1.** That the [Legislature] strongly supports pregnancy care centers in their unique, positive contributions to the individual lives of women, men, and babies—both born and unborn.

**Section 2.** That the [Legislature] commends the compassionate work of tens of thousands of volunteers and paid staff at pregnancy care centers in [Insert name of State] and across the United States.

**Section 3.** That the [Legislature] strongly encourages the Congress of the United States and other federal and state government agencies to grant pregnancy care centers assistance for medical equipment and abstinence education in a manner that does not compromise the mission or religious integrity of these organizations.

**Section 4.** That the [Legislature] disapproves of the actions of any national, state, or local groups attempting to prevent pregnancy care centers from effectively serving women and men facing unplanned pregnancies.

**Section 5.** That the Secretary of State of [Insert name of State] transmit a copy of this resolution to each pregnancy care center in [Insert name of State], to the Governor, to the President of the United States, and to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

More detailed information about legislative efforts related to pregnancy care centers can be found in AUL's annual publication *Defending Life 2011: A State by State Legal Guide to Abortion, Bioethics, and the End of Life*.

*Defending Life 2011* is available online at [AUL.org](http://AUL.org).

For further information regarding this or other AUL policy guides, please contact:

AMERICANS UNITED FOR LIFE  
655 15th Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington DC 20005  
202.289.1478 | Fax 202.289.1473 | [Legislation@AUL.org](mailto:Legislation@AUL.org)

[www.AUL.org](http://www.AUL.org)

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