

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present witness testimony on House Bill 297. This bill authorizes an income tax credit for a taxpayer's cash contribution to qualifying non-profit Pregnancy Resource Centers.

Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRC) all across Ohio provide crucial services to residents during a critical time in their lives. PRC's offer free services to women, men and families. Many residents seek services during a great time of need.

I am the director of Women's Centers of Ohio, under Elizabeth's New Life Center. I direct six Women's Centers throughout Southwest Ohio and I have the privilege of working with many residents during their time of need. We offer a wide array of services, which are all free. Among the services that we offer are free pregnancy tests, in 2018 we performed 4,394 free pregnancy tests. We also offer limited ultrasounds to determine gestational age and viability of a pregnancy. In 2018 our trained medical staff performed 4,696 free limited ultrasounds. We staff 18 medical professionals throughout our organization ranging from doctors, nurses, radiologists, and registered diagnostic sonographers. We also provide a Verification of Pregnancy is provided to every individual who receives a positive pregnancy test. This Verification allows individuals to apply for medicaid and sign up for amazing programs such as WIC and Help Me Grow. Community resources and referrals are discussed with every individual in an attempt to connect each resident with all of the necessary resources to encourage a healthy pregnancy and birth.

Our main goal is to reach every woman exactly where she is and educate and support her. We offer educational parenting classes to both men and women in both individual and group settings. In 2018, 5,810 educational classes were taught. Upon participation individuals earn what we call Baby Bucks. The Baby Bucks earned can then be utilized at our boutiques in order to purchase much needed supplies for a baby.

The Pregnancy Resource Center that I am involved with has been in existence for 30 years. For 30 years this organization has been tirelessly serving Southwest Ohio. Thousands of lives have been helped and there is nothing fake about the work that is being done.

House Bill 297 gives an incentive for community members to donate to their local PRC. Pregnancy Resource Centers that are providing absolutely free services to women and families in need in Ohio. This allows families to give their money directly to their community helping other families in need and would be a good investment for the state. I am proud to be a resident of the great state of Ohio and I believe that this bill could assist in making our state even stronger.

Thank you for your time.

Meg Carnahan