



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 2/20/24

Name: Suzie Thomas

Address: 5511 Fulton Dr. NW, Canton, OH 44718

Telephone: 330-324-2424

Organization Representing: Pregnancy Support Network

Testifying on Bill Number: OH SB159

Testimony:  Verbal  Written  Both

Testifying As:  Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?  Yes  No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Testimonial in support of SB 159  
presented by Pregnancy Support Network  
4500 22nd Street NW, Canton OH 44708  
Kathy Specht, CEO**

In today's culture with our busy, busy lives, it can be easy for a day to look more like one long to-do list. One of the things on my list that day was to swing by the Pregnancy and Parenting Center to take photos of the little baby shower the center was hosting for our expectant moms. As usual, there were cute party decorations, a lovely spread of goodies and, of course, gifts for baby and mom. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, each mom-to-be received a Pack 'n Play for safe sleep, a car seat for safe travel and plenty of newborn clothing and diapers to get off to a great start. Not to be left out, there were also a few little extras like lotions and such to pamper the moms as well. It was a lovely shower. But, as I said, at the time it felt like one pit stop on my list of to-do's. Stop, say hello, snap a few shots and go. That is, until I heard the words of one on the receiving end of the party that day.

“The baby shower was something I was really grateful for. Because coming into this program in the first place, you don't have a lot of money to spend, and a lot of these girls—we didn't have a lot of family to lean on. The parenting class was our family and they were there for us. It was nice to have someone care for you and to put together a baby shower that...it's going to be a memory we carry with us forever.”

***A memory we carry with us forever.***

The words hit me hard. I will never look at those baby showers in the same way. Never minimize the impact of the work being done here—not only in the saving of babies, but in the transforming of lives. The simple gesture of that baby shower—and the many that have taken place since—let a young mom know that someone truly cares for her, that she matters, and that she will hold onto that truth for a lifetime.

At The Pregnancy and Parenting Center, we are pro-LIFE, not merely pro-birth. And the services we provide our clients—at no charge to them—go far beyond meeting needs. We're changing lives. Your yes vote would help us accomplish even more.

