

I am writing to you regarding the good work done by pregnancy centers across the country, and especially in the state of Ohio, to encourage support of passing S.B. 159. I could speak to you as the Executive Director of Pregnancy Help Center in Youngstown, Ohio, but I have chosen to let our work speak for itself. Please take a moment to read the following story.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Halo. I am 15 years old.

I live with my mom & dad, our two dogs & two ferrets. I go to Heartland christian school. I have a best friend & a boyfriend. I am a dancer & a singer. I help teach dance classes & I give piano lessons. I serve in the children's ministry at my church. I am able to do all of this, because 15 1/2 years ago Pregnancy Help Center helped a young woman choose life.

My biological mother was an 18 year old senior in high school. She had a rough life. She was lost & turned to partying. She was living with her best friend's family when she found out she was pregnant. Realizing that she hadn't even graduated high school yet & that she barely had a support system, she knew she was not able to give her baby the life she deserved. Feeling alone & without hope she went to PHC seeking an abortion. She was met with compassion & love. At PHC she was provided with information about every single option she had, as well as having an ultrasound. Seeing her little baby's heart beating helped her choose life. She decided not to have an abortion & she ultimately chose adoption as the best option for her baby. While she was pregnant she gave up her bad habits & started to get her life on track.

My parents got married in 2002. They struggled for many years with fertility issues & suffered a miscarriage. They prayed & prayed for a baby. In September 2008, an acquaintance contacted them about a young woman looking to place her baby with a good family. My mom & dad met my birth mother & showed her compassion, love & support. They were chosen to be my adoptive parents.

In January of 2009 I was born & three days later taken to my home with my loving parents. My birth mother went on to graduate high school and attend college that fall.

When my parents found out about PHC & all they had done for not only me & my birth mother, but so many others, we became active supporters. My mom has been serving as a volunteer at the center for 12 years. We participate in fundraising events & share our story.

Because of the work done at PHC, I am alive today. I'm blessed with a wonderful life. Because of all the people that cared for me & cared for my birth mother, I get to live & have an impact on this world.

PHC is an amazing ministry that provides for physical & spiritual needs & gives the gift of life, support & love.

Pregnancy help centers are so important to our community & need all the help they can get to serve effectively.

Thank you.

I believe this testimony speaks volumes as to the work of Pregnancy Centers. Your "Yes" vote will help those who give financially to our center. Our center survives solely on donations, this credit will enable current and future donors to financially contribute to the work we do.

Sincerely,
Jodie Vukovich