

## Testimony in Support of S.B. 159

From the Board and Staff of Bella Women's Center  
1192 North Rd. Warren, Ohio 44483

Thank you for the opportunity to submit insights and data in support of this Bill.

Bella has been serving as a *no-cost* medical testing and support services clinic since 2011. We average 400 unique women and girls served each year from Trumbull County and surrounding areas. We are funded entirely by community donations by donors who believe that this is where they would want their daughters, nieces, or friends to *find first* if in the intensity of an unplanned pregnancy because of the excellent, non-judgmental support offered to every woman.

Last week this was one of the reviews we received: "I walked in anxious and not knowing what to expect. The environment and staff were welcoming and made me feel very comfortable. A sense of calm and all the information I needed."

We believe the encouragement of financial support for pregnancy centers would benefit the state in two ways:

1. First and foremost- increasing the health and welfare of mothers, babies, and families-

Because women are making appointments VERY early in their pregnancies (around 6 weeks) as they are processing a pregnancy decision, the support and care they are receiving from Bella (STD testing *and treatment*, referrals to other non-profit resources, ongoing pre-natal education, and follow-up throughout and after birth), *leads to better physical and mental health outcomes for whole families.*

2. Lowering Medicare and other state program costs *by preventing negative outcomes due to lack of timely healthcare and support services.*

With the no-cost early intervention described above, women and girls who are stepping into Bella are experiencing happier and healthier pregnancies and parenting experiences.

Thank you for your attention and consideration! We love our state and love that we can serve the families of Trumbull County with the medical care and kindness our women deserve.

Sincerely,  
Tia Ciferno  
Executive Director