



Center FOR Christian Virtue

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

To: Chair Matt Dolan
Vice Chair Jerry Cirino
Ranking Member Vernon Sykes
Senate Finance Committee

February 27, 2024

Re: Support for SB 159

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Nilani Jawahar and I am here on behalf of the Center for Christian Virtue, Ohio's largest Christian public policy organization, to testify in support of Senate Bill 159, which aims to establish a nonrefundable tax credit for donations to qualifying pregnancy resource centers.

Pregnancy resource centers do the hard work of walking alongside women and families to support them throughout their pregnancies and often for years after as well. They provide pregnancy support, parenting classes, material aid, and most importantly, the encouragement a woman needs to know that she *can* do it, she *can* be a mother and she doesn't have to do it alone.

Recent polling shows that 83% of Americans support the work of pregnancy resource centers. This includes 75% of self-identified Democrats and 90% of self-identified Republicans, as well as 80% of Americans who consider themselves "pro-choice."¹ It's undeniable that these centers are doing good in the community.

Passage of SB 159 would be a smart move on the part of the General Assembly because pregnancy resource centers ease the burden of public social service agencies. Some may see a tax credit for donations to these centers as drawing money away from the state, but it actually relieves the state when these centers are mobilized to offer aid to lower-income families.

I myself am a volunteer at my local pregnancy resource center for about four and half years now and I can attest to the impact that our center has on the community. Over half my clients at the center are economically disadvantaged—often

¹ <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/polls/marist-poll-results2024.pdf>



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immigrants, and sometimes speak little to no English which makes it challenging for them to figure out how to access community resources. When they come to the center, every client is welcomed and given special attention. We perform her pregnancy test and ultrasound, offer her maternity clothes, prenatal vitamins, and a variety of other things that are tailored to her situation. She leaves the center equipped with resources to support herself and her baby. We follow up with her throughout her pregnancy to assist her with her needs along the way and after she gives birth we give her a huge bag of baby gifts. The women who come through our center are well-loved and cared for. And they never get charged a penny.

One of the best comments I ever received was when a client, in tears, said, “I could tell as soon as I walked in that you were good people and that you really care.” It’s a blessing for me personally to get to be on the ground and see the work of the pregnancy resource centers firsthand as well as to advocate on the legislative level here with all of you because I can truly see the mutual benefit. We at CCV are grateful for all the General Assembly has done in the past to support pregnancy resource centers and hope you will continue to do so by passing SB 159.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today and I’ll do my best to answer any questions.

The Center for Christian Virtue (CCV) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that endeavors to create an Ohio where God’s blessings of life, family, and religious freedom are treasured, respected, and protected. www.ccv.org -- (513) 733-5775