



SUSAN B. ANTHONY
PRO-LIFE
AMERICA

Testimony in favor of SB159
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am grateful for the opportunity to submit our comments in favor of SB159, which would authorize a tax credit for donations to pregnancy resource centers.

Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America is a 501(c)(4) organization, based in Arlington, Virginia, that seeks to reduce and ultimately end abortion in the United States by electing national leaders and advocating for laws that save lives, serve women and save babies, with a special calling to promote pro-life women leaders.

Our research and education arm, The Charlotte Lozier Institute, engages expert legal and medical professionals to provide research and education on an array of issues in ethics and the life sciences.

Regardless of abortion politics, we can all agree on having quality options available for the community to support women who are pregnant and parenting. Pregnancy resource centers provide services and resources to women and families at a great value to the community and, as the data shows, women report an extremely high satisfaction rate with the services they've received from them.

Pregnancy resource centers provide assistance to needy families so that children can stay in their own homes or those of relatives. They provide ultrasounds and other medical testing, counseling to woman and families about their options prior to birth, and parenting education after. Some sponsor fatherhood programs, which help keep families intact. But they're probably best known for providing essential material items, including diapers and wipes, car seats and strollers, baby clothing and more to ease the burden on families.

Our Charlotte Lozier Institute produced a *Pregnancy Center State Impact Report: Ohio* with facts about pregnancy centers in Ohio in 2019 (1). Its research showed that pregnancy centers throughout Ohio provided in 2019:

- Services and materials valued at more than \$15.1 million
- Services to 126,590 women, men, youth and families
- \$9,091,568 in medical services
 - 39,781 free pregnancy tests
 - 30,070 free ultrasounds performed by registered nurses/medical sonographers
 - 4,879 total STD/STI tests performed by registered nurses (3,226 patients were tested – 14% mal, 86% female)
- \$4,432,219 in family services
 - 54,899 free consultations with new clients
 - 71,691 students attended free sexual risk avoidance presentations
 - 16,783 clients received free parenting education (18% male, 82% female)
 - 1,918 clients received free after-abortion support and recovery (4% male, 96% female)
- \$1,610,705 in material items
 - 251,711 total free baby items given to families in need, such as:
 - 82,636 free packs of diapers
 - 58,819 free packs of baby wipes
 - 109,924 free new and used baby clothing outfits
 - 1,370 free new car seats
 - 961 free new and used strollers
- Made possible by:
 - 940 total staff, 21% of whom were licensed medical professionals
 - 3,360 total volunteers, 11% of whom were licensed medical professionals

Imagine that distribution network! And consider the possibilities of how tax credits could help to expand these networks in the private sector to serve even more women and children in need in their communities, lessening the impact on taxpayer dollars.

In fact, you honored pregnancy centers in Ohio in 2014 by passing Resolution 52 through the Ohio House of Representatives.(2) At least 20 states have also honored pregnancy centers with resolutions affirming the value they bring to their communities. While these resolutions vary by state, most acknowledge that the life-affirming impact of pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes on women, families, and the communities they serve is *considerable and growing*, and pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes *serve with integrity and compassion*.

A tax credit has historically been a successful tool to encourage charitable giving, and it is a very efficient way to support pregnancy resource centers. It encourages additional community investment and gets businesses involved in helping vulnerable women and families. It is not dependent on TANF or other sources of federal funding, or the state budget cycle itself. In addition to Ohio, 11 states have introduced or fully enacted tax credits which benefit pregnancy resource centers.

- Three states have legislation which is pending or carried over into the next session
 - Alabama, Pregnancy Resource Act, [HB208 \(2023\)](#)
 - Nebraska, Nebraska Pregnancy Help Act, [LB606 \(2023\)](#)
 - Kansas, The Pregnancy Resource Act, [SB96 \(2023-2024\)](#).

- Eight states have enacted legislation which provides a tax credit to pregnancy centers, some are specific to pregnancy centers, others are for a broader range of non-profits, including pregnancy centers:
 - Mississippi, [HB 1671 \(2023\)](#), Amended Mississippi code 27-7-22.43 to include pregnancy centers.
 - Louisiana, [SB41 \(2023\)](#), applicable to a board range of nonprofits
 - Missouri,
 - Maternity Home Tax Credit, [HB1132 \(2014\)](#)
 - Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credit, [SB605 \(2006\)](#)
 - Arizona, [Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. Section 43-1088\(A\)](#), for a broad range of nonprofits
 - Delaware [30 Del. Code Ann. Section 2004](#), for a broad range of nonprofits
 - Indiana Code [6.3.1-9.3](#), for a broad range of nonprofits
 - Virginia, [Va. Code Ann. section 58.1-439.24](#), for a broad range of nonprofits
 - West Virginia, [W. Va. Code section 11-13J-1-12](#), for a broad range of nonprofits

Across the United States, over 2,700 pregnancy resource centers served almost two million people in 2019 at an estimated value of nearly \$350 million dollars.(3)

The 2022 report, *Hope for a New Generation*, is a collaboration of national survey data provided by the Charlotte Lozier Institute , Care Net, Heartbeat International, and National Institute of Family and Life Advocates. It documents how pregnancy help centers have identified and responded to an array of challenges through their many services that promote maternal, child and family health and well-being.(3)

Key findings in the report include:

- In 2022, pregnancy centers met with clients over 16 million times, both in person and virtually, with an estimated total service value of at least \$358 million annually.
- Pregnancy centers provided services to almost 975,000 new clients.
- Vital services provided at no cost: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting education programs, baby diapers, wipes, formula, outfits and more.
- Of the over 16 million client sessions that took place, 97% self-reported a positive experience.(3)

From the report:

Besides the growth in centers, and the narrative of a largely private-sector movement of professionals and volunteers, these reports document how pregnancy help centers have

identified and responded to an array of challenges. Such issues as human trafficking, homelessness, domestic abuse, sexually transmitted disease morbidity, and abortion pill regret and reversal have prompted new resilience and response.

Centers continue to innovate and connect with a panoply of community services to promote maternal, child and family health and well-being. Now, in the wake of the reversal of the infamous *Roe v. Wade*, the demands upon centers are increasing daily. Many states are responding with new funds and new policies to support the centers' work.

Even though the national Administration of Children and Families recently proposed a rule change to disallow TANF funding for pregnancy resource centers, just a few years ago then-HHS Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families Lynn Johnson praised Pennsylvania's program of funding pregnancy centers and related agencies – much like the Ohio program – as an ideal partner for the agency. She said that those closest to the needs of society were best suited to meet those needs. (5)

Finally, there is every reason to believe that SB159 and the tax credit will be popular with taxpayers in Ohio. A Marist/Knights of Columbus, January 2023 poll found that 91% of Americans support pregnancy resource centers, which offer vital material, medical and educational support to mothers both during their pregnancy and after their baby is born. (6)

We encourage you to pass SB159 to create a tax credit for donations to community-based pregnancy resource centers. You will be investing in and expanding a proven network that provides high-quality care to pregnant women and families and brings a return as much as 5 to 1, according to the National Council of Nonprofits. A tax credit also encourages corporate social responsibility, as businesses can feel good about donating to this important cause and helping women choose life in difficult circumstances.

1 *Pregnancy Center State Impact Report: Ohio*. The Charlotte Lozier Institute. 2019. Available at <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2019-Ohio-State-Impact-Report.pdf>

2 Ohio House of Representatives pregnancy center House Concurrent Resolution 52, passed 64-27, in 2014. See https://www.cleveland.com/open/2014/11/resolution_honoring_crisis_pre.html and https://ohiolife.org/press-releases_2014_11_19_ohio-house-passes-resolution-to-honor-pregnancy-resource-cen/

3 *Pregnancy Centers Offer Hope for a New Generation*. A Legacy of LIFE & LOVE Report Series. The Charlotte Lozier Institute. 2023. Available at https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Pregnancy-Center-Update_2022.pdf

4 *Pregnancy Help Centers: A Consensus Service to Women and Children*. Chuck Donovan. 2017. Available at <https://lozierinstitute.org/pregnancy-help-centers-a-consensus-service-to-women-and-children/>

5 *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*. Real Alternatives. 2023. Available at <https://www.realalternatives.org/tanf/>

6 Marist-Knights of Columbus Poll, January, 2023. Available at <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/polls/majority-americans-still-support-abortion-limits.pdf>

ATTACHMENTS:

Pregnancy Center State Impact Report: Ohio. The Charlotte Lozier Institute. 2019

Pregnancy Centers Offer Hope for a New Generation. A Legacy of LIFE & LOVE Report Series. The Charlotte Lozier Institute. 2023.