



Jaime Miracle, Deputy Director  
Senate Government Oversight Committee  
Testimony in Opposition to HB 96  
May 14, 2025

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for accepting my testimony in opposition to House Bill 96, the proposed state budget. My name is Jaime Miracle, and I am the deputy director for Abortion Forward, formerly Pro-Choice Ohio. Before I begin, I want to thank my Policy Fellow Milena Wood for her assistance with drafting this testimony I'm presenting today.

We have two main concerns with tax policy within the House passed version of the budget: the removal of the executive-proposed child tax credit that would give qualifying households with children under the age of 7 an annual \$1000-per-child tax credit, and the creation of a personal income tax deduction for contributions to anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers, up to \$750 per year.

#### **Elimination of the \$1000 child tax credit**

At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the federal government realized the economic challenges facing families across the country and instituted an expansion of the federal child tax credit. Among the changes were making the tax credit refundable and monthly rather than paid annually when taxes were filed. What was the result of this expansion? The child poverty rate was cut in half, pushing two million children above the poverty line. Unfortunately, this relief was only temporary. This tax credit expired at the end of 2021, but it stands as direct proof that tax credits pull families out of poverty. Tax credits reduce food insecurity, they reduce homelessness and housing insecurity, and they improve child health.

Families in our state are struggling. The cost of everything is going up. Wages are not keeping up. Tax credits for families with children under 7 would help reduce this strain and give families a bit more wiggle room in their monthly budgets. Time and again, we hear how this legislature wants to support families and children, but the policies proposed don't follow that theme. Please reinstate this child tax credit and help struggling families in our state.

#### **Creation of a one-of-a-kind income tax credit for donations to anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers**

Anti-abortion canters, also known as "crisis pregnancy centers" or CPCs, make extensive efforts to have themselves appear as legitimate health centers. As described by Planned Parenthood, the important distinction is that "most crisis pregnancy centers aren't legitimate medical clinics, so they don't have to follow HIPAA and keep your information private, like most real health care providers do." Concerningly, "they advertise free pregnancy tests, abortion

counseling, pre-abortion screenings, abortion education, post-abortion care, or after-abortion help—but they refuse to help you get an abortion.”<sup>1</sup>

CPCs frame themselves as organizations that can help those looking to get abortions, delaying necessary care, and replacing that care with the propagation of unfounded abortion anxieties to influence decision making among their clients. Research has shown CPCs “engage in abortion misinformation, including leading people to believe that medication abortions are reversible, that abortions cause catastrophic long-term health consequences, or that abortions will cause future infertility,”<sup>2</sup> absolutely none of which are claims backed by any significant body of research.

The state of Ohio already gives these centers millions of dollars in funding each year. This current budget proposal includes \$20 million in funding for these centers through the Parenting and Pregnancy Program, a \$3 million dollar increase over the last biennium. These centers do not deserve any state support.

Why do we say that? When you dive into the actual numbers and how these centers use the existing state funding program, it becomes immediately apparent that this program is not a good investment of taxpayer funds. The grant reports submitted by the organizations funded by the Parenting and Pregnancy Program to ODJFS tell the full story. In 2022, these programs spent 5.6 times MORE money on overhead, marketing, and media than they did on participant support and education (\$1.755 million vs. \$314,000). In 2021, it was even worse. These programs spent 10 times more on overhead, marketing, and media than participant support and education (\$1.426 million vs. \$140,000).

Crisis pregnancy centers are the worst possible way to distribute resources to families. CPCs love to talk about diaper distribution, so let’s look at that as an example. On average, a baby will use 3000 diapers in their first year of life.<sup>3</sup> Ohio Medicaid pays for approximately 60,000 births each year. At an average price of \$0.29, per diaper<sup>4</sup>, the \$20 million that the state is already proposing to give to these centers could cover the total diaper cost of 22,988 babies in Ohio, or 38% of all Medicaid births in the state. If this legislature wants to encourage donations to programs that effectively support to families in need, the answer is NOT giving a tax credit to crisis pregnancy centers donors.

We urge this committee to remove the proposed income tax deduction for donation to these centers. They do not need any additional support from the state of Ohio.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/blog/what-are-crisis-pregnancy-centers>

<sup>2</sup> Evangeline Warren, Alexandra Kissling, Alison H. Norris, Priya R. Gursahaney, Danielle Bessett, Maria F. Gallo, “I felt like I was a bad person... which I’m not”: Stigmatization in crisis pregnancy centers, *SSM - Qualitative Research in Health*, Volume 2, 2022, 100059, ISSN 2667-3215, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmqr.2022.100059>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.totalcareaba.com/statistics/diaper-facts>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid