



**To:** Members of the General Assembly  
**From** Lisa Maloney, President, CPCC  
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Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center, New London

January, 2019

**Response to Negative and Misleading Comments made by NARAL CT  
Concerning Pregnancy Resource Centers in Connecticut**

The Connecticut Pregnancy Care Coalition is gravely concerned about slanderous and misleading statements made by NARAL CT, against CPCC members and non-members, to members of the General Assembly and other elected state and local officials. This attack is part of a national campaign initiated several years ago by the national NARAL organization, with the support of other abortion advocacy groups.

Connecticut's pregnancy resource centers offer support to pregnant women which is usually not available through any other service provider. These centers provide compassionate care to women facing unplanned pregnancies, including resources to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

NARAL CT wants the public to believe that pregnancy resource centers masquerade and advertise as full service women's health clinics, misleading women, *but this is not the truth*. Behind these erroneous charges lie the actual goals of the national NARAL campaign:

- 1) To deter women from seeking assistance at pregnancy resource centers, which do not offer abortion services or make abortion referrals.
- 2) To obtain the enactment of laws that infringe on the centers' freedom to operate.

Through the continuing pronouncement of skewed and biased information, that creates an extremely negative image of pregnancy resource centers in Connecticut, NARAL CT hopes to put pregnancy resource centers out of business or severely impact their ability to operate. This campaign shows a true lack of concern for the thousands of women and children serviced by our centers.

Several pregnancy resource centers do offer ultrasound services in accordance with state requirements, but our centers seek to be much more than a medical office to the women they serve and their children. Pregnancy resource centers in Connecticut are committed to serving their clients with integrity and compassion. A client is never charged for a service.

Unfortunately, if these slanderous efforts to discredit pregnancy resource centers are successful, many women and children stand to lose a vital means of support. Passage of any legislation, based on slanted statements and research, will only help to erode this vital option for pregnant women in our state.

I hope you will find the attached information informative.

## Facts Concerning Pregnancy Resource Centers and the NARAL CT Attack

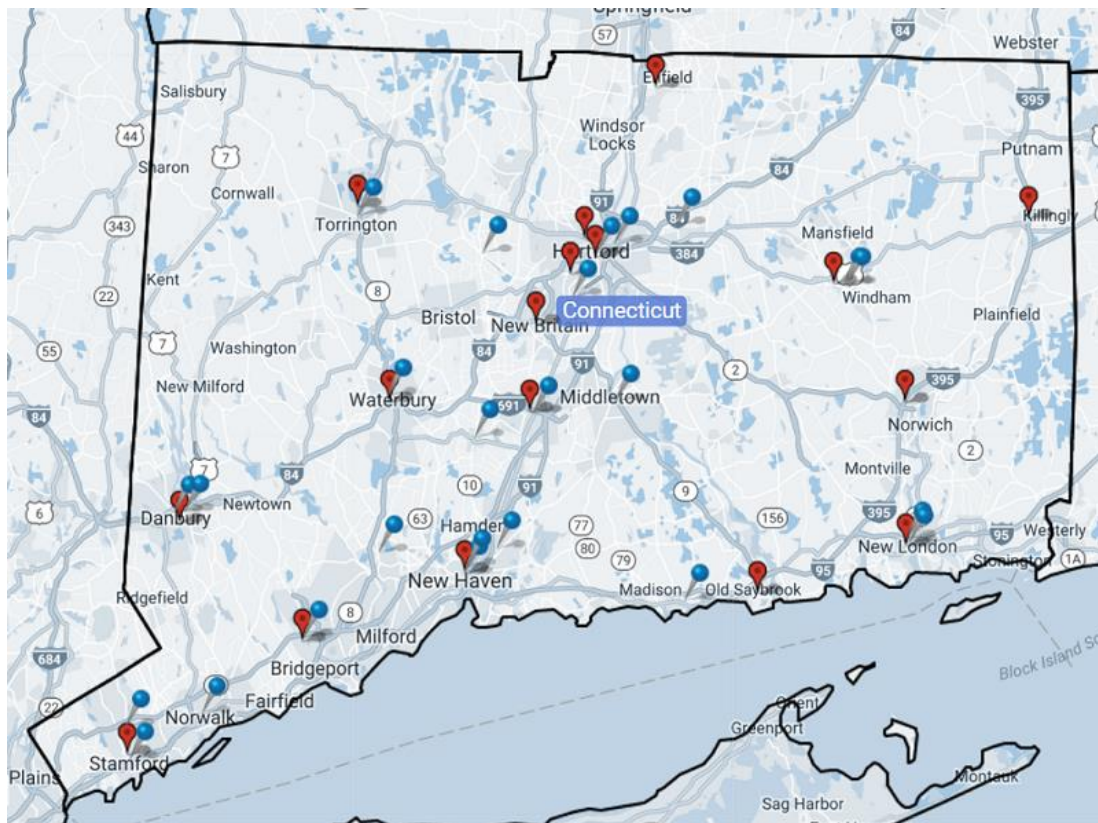
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- The NARAL CT attack on Connecticut pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) is part of a national campaign to discredit and eventually shutdown organizations that assist thousands of pregnant women a year in our state, and across the nation, who make a choice to keep their unborn children and reject the alternative of abortion.
- Connecticut PRCs provide women in our state facing an unplanned pregnancy a choice. These women are treated with compassion and concern from the moment of first contact with a PRC.
- NARAL CT uses unsubstantiated facts and hearsay to make PRCs appear deceitful and manipulative toward vulnerable women seeking guidance and assistance. The opposite is true.
  - NARAL CT fails to cite any actual, verifiable, complaints by clients. The reason for this is very likely due to the fact that PRCs in Connecticut treat their clients with compassion, kindness and openness.
  - Many clients maintain long relationships with the PRC that assisted them. This would not occur if the environment was as manipulative and deceitful as described by NARAL CT.
  - Exit Surveys completed by clients show a 98% client satisfaction rate.
  - The number one way clients find PRCs is through referrals. These referrals are usually through friends or family members who have had a positive experience with a PRC or have heard positive comments about a PRC.
  - It appears that those complaining about PRCs are primarily perturbed by the position PRCs hold on abortion.
- NARAL CT makes reference to misleading advertising used to lure vulnerable women into PRCs. This statement is completely false.
  - Both PRCs and abortion clinics in Connecticut advertise “options counseling”. This is not a deceptive term. Neither offers support for all the options. PRCs do not offer abortions or refer for them. Likewise, abortion clinics do not offer all the support services, if any, for women who decide to carry their children full term.
- NARAL CT states repeatedly that PRCs advertise as being “comprehensive medical clinics”. This statement is blatantly untrue and fabricated by NARAL to build animosity toward PRCs. They compare services offered by PRCs with the recommendation of services that should be provided by comprehensive health clinics. This is a misleading comparison.
  - No PRC advertises itself as a comprehensive health clinic. Some PRCs offer limited medical services, primarily ultrasounds, and meet state requirements.
  - Medical scrubs are worn by state certified medical technicians and nurses in PRCs that offer any type of medical services.
  - The list of services offered by a PRC is easily available on the PRC’s website and pamphlets. There is no intentional attempt to mislead clients.
- NARAL CT claims that PRCs provide untrue and inaccurate medical information to discourage women from getting an abortion. Again, this statement is blatantly false.
  - Some, not all, PRCs do address medical issues concerning abortion-linked effects, such as the breast cancer connection and post-abortion mental health issues. However, answers to medical questions are provided only by our medical personnel. The information provided is supported by medical research and is *not* given to women to mislead them, but to more *fully inform* them in response to their inquiry.

- The fetal models used by PRCs are accurate. Again, this information is provided to more *fully inform* a woman. Whereas, abortion clinics tend not to fully discuss this information with their clients.
  - Ultrasounds are also used to *fully inform* a woman about fetal development. The ultrasounds given in a PRC are a necessary medical procedure when the goal is to *fully inform* a woman.
- NARAL CT claims that PRCs locate themselves in low-income areas, near universities, and near centers of minority populations to prey on vulnerable populations who lack adequate insurance coverage. This is not true.
- Just like abortion clinics, PRCs choose their locations based on many factors, such as cost of location, mass transit, and closeness to population centers.
  - Based on the location of abortion clinics in Connecticut, these clinics would, ironically, be guilty of the same charge of “preying on vulnerable populations”.

## Comparative Locations of Pregnancy Resource Centers and Abortion Clinics January 2019

- NARAL CT claims that pregnancy resource centers locate themselves in areas of low-income and minority populations to prey on these vulnerable populations who lack adequate insurance coverage and access to quality care. The map below shows that abortion clinics are frequently located in the same areas as pregnancy resource centers. In fact, abortion clinics are usually well established in the area before a pregnancy resource center even opens its doors. The question that should actually be asked is whether or not abortion clinics are guilty of preying on vulnerable populations.



Key: ● Abortion Clinic (18 Clinics)  
● Pregnancy Resource Center (24 Centers)



# IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

## 2018 CPCC SERVICE REPORT



1,044  
pregnancy tests



792  
ultrasounds



3,933  
material assistance



16  
STI Tests



2,387  
Educational Classes



CONNECTICUT CENTERS  
SAVED COMMUNITIES

\$1,212,500

→ \$287,100  
in pregnancy tests

→ \$495,000  
in ultrasounds

→ \$393,300  
in material assistance

→ \$5,200  
in STI tests

→ \$477,400  
in educational classes



## CONNECTICUT PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS

As of January 2019

Total Centers: 24

### Coalition Centers (11)

<i>ABC (A Better Choice) Women's Center</i>	Middletown
<i>Caring Families Pregnancy Services</i>	Willimantic
<i>Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center</i>	New London
<i>Carolyn's Place</i>	Waterbury
<i>Hope Pregnancy Center</i>	Cheshire
<i>Hopeline Pregnancy Resource Centers (3)</i>	Bridgeport, Danbury, Stamford
<i>Crisis Pregnancy Center</i>	Farmington (Unionville)
<i>Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center</i>	Torrington
<i>St. Gianna Pregnancy Resources</i>	New Haven

### Non-Coalition Centers (3)

<i>St. Gerard's Center for Life (dba, Hartford Woman's Center)</i>	Hartford
<i>Mary and Joseph's Place</i>	North Haven
<i>In Our Blessed Mother's Arms</i>	New Haven

### Birthright Centers (10) – (by-laws prohibit the joining of coalitions)

Birthright - Greater Hartford	East Hartford
Birthright of the Valley	Ansonia
Birthright - Greater Westbrook	Clinton
Birthright	Danbury
Birthright	Meriden
Birthright – Greater Norwich	New London
Birthright	Newington
Birthright	Norwalk
Birthright	Stamford
Birthright	Willimantic (Windham)