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Title: Require Transparency and Discontinue Public Funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers

Introduced by: Cheryl Farmer, MD

Original Author: Cheryl Farmer, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee E

House Action: **REFERRED**

Whereas, Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) present as medical clinics, offering free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and counseling, but are not medical clinics, and

Whereas, pregnancy tests are now available over the counter, and

Whereas, the ultrasounds provided by CPCs are not indicated, not done by medical personnel and will not be read by a radiologist, and

Whereas, the counselors at CPCs are not licensed, and

Whereas, CPCs such as Care Net, International Heart Beat and the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates are financed by organizations that are biased against contraception and/or abortion on a religious basis, and

Whereas, CPCs are advised by their funders to hide their anti-abortion motives by giving their centers neutral-seeming names such as "Choices"¹, situating them near abortion clinics and college campuses, and scrubbing their Christian beliefs from their websites², and

Whereas, CPCs often use misleading advertisements, sometimes even posing as abortion providers, and

Whereas, they present as medical clinics but do not offer contraception, health education, family planning, prenatal care, abortion or delivery, and

Whereas, CPCs exist to prevent pregnant women from exercising their legal right to abortion by failing to mention it as an option, by shaming, by dramatizing the risks of legal abortion (which is statistically less risky than carrying a pregnancy to term), by delaying a woman's decision until abortion is no longer an option and by frightening women with misinformation such as abortion increases the risk of breast cancer³, results in sterility and leads to "Post-Abortion Syndrome"⁴ with severe long-term emotional harm and increased risk of suicide, and

Whereas, the scientific data does not support these claims, nor is "Post-Abortion Syndrome" recognized by either the American Psychological Association or the American Psychiatric Association⁵, and

49 Whereas, free pregnancy testing by medical personnel, counseling regarding all the options
50 for a positive test, referral to a clinic that will honor the woman's choice, sign-ups for WIC, MICHILD,
51 and health insurance when appropriate are all available through Michigan's county health clinics;
52 therefore be it

53 RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby the State of Michigan to require unlicensed facilities that
54 advertise and provide pregnancy testing and related services to immediately advise clients that they
55 are not licensed as a medical facility, do not have licensed counselors and have no licensed medical
56 personnel to provide or to directly supervise the provision of services, and to subject facilities that fail
57 to comply with this requirement to a monetary penalty; and be it further
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59 RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby the State of Michigan to eliminate state funding for Crisis
60 Pregnancy Centers because they intentionally and knowingly omit the provision of comprehensive,
61 scientifically supported health care information to women and teens; thereby, preventing women and
62 teens from making fully informed decisions about their reproductive care; and be it further
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64 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
65 AMA to lobby Congress to eliminate federal funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers.
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68 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Family Planning Services

MSMS supports the concept that family planning services are a basic health service and funds should be earmarked to support those services.

Universal family planning is an essential element of responsible parenthood, stable family life and social harmony.

The very personal nature of advice and counseling in family planning makes it mandatory that consideration be given to the patient's wishes and desires, and to ethnic and religious background. The professional must be prepared to counsel on all aspects of family planning, either in assisting a couple to have a family, or postponing additions to their family. Expert counseling in all techniques, such as rhythm, barrier, hormone or tubal ligation must be available.

Consistent with responsible preventive medicine and in the interest of reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancy, the following is recommended:

- a. The teenage minor whose sexual behavior exposes her to possible conception should have access to medical consultation and the most effective contraceptive advice and methods consistent with her physical and emotional needs.

- b. The physician so consulted should be free to prescribe or withhold contraceptive advice in accordance with his or her best medical judgment in the best interests of the patient.

(Res24-90A)

- Amended 1993
- Edited 1998
- Edited 2005
- Reaffirmed (Res05-16)

Relevant AMA Policy:

Truth and Transparency in Pregnancy Counseling Centers H-420.954

1. Our AMA supports that any entity offering crisis pregnancy services disclose information on site, in its advertising, and before any services are provided concerning the medical services, contraception, termination of pregnancy or referral for such services, adoption options or referral for such services that it provides; and be it further

2. Our AMA advocates that any entity providing medical or health services to pregnant women that markets medical or any clinical services abide by licensing requirements and have the appropriate qualified licensed personnel to do so and abide by federal health information privacy laws.

¹ <https://www.choicesaz.com/>

² <http://reachoutwomenscenter.com/about-us/>

³ <https://www.cancer.gov/types/breast/abortion-miscarriage-riskInstitute>

⁴ <https://www.chsourcebook.com/articles/waxman2.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2008/08/single-abortion.aspx>