

Resolution to Ensure Accurate Medical Information at Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs)¹

WHEREAS, nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended,² and

WHEREAS, young and low-income women who have the highest rates of unintended pregnancy³ have few options for unbiased and accurate medical advice regarding unintended pregnancies;⁴ and

WHEREAS, comprehensive and medically accurate information regarding pregnancy must be made available to women early in pregnancy to ensure appropriate prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, CPCs target women who are young, members of minority groups, and/or financially disadvantaged;^{5 6 7} and

WHEREAS, a 2006 congressional investigative report found that 20 of 23 CPCs contacted provided false or misleading information;⁸ and

WHEREAS, CPCs have been found to distribute misleading, medically inaccurate, and false information regarding abortion risks, sexually transmitted infections, and contraceptive effectiveness;^{9 10 11 12} and

WHEREAS, CPCs engage in false advertising by listing their organizations as “abortion services” and “clinic-medical”¹³ when there are no trained medical personnel on staff, and

WHEREAS, multiple investigations have found that CPCs engage in techniques that are coercive, threatening, misleading, and aggressive;^{14 15} and

WHEREAS, multiple Attorney Generals and state governments have sought legal action against these misleading advertising tactics;^{16 17} and

WHEREAS, despite engaging in “inappropriate public health practices,”¹⁸ CPCs received over \$30 million in federal funding between 2001 and 2005;¹⁹ and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments have a special responsibility to ensure that taxpayer resources are not used to mislead and misinform persons seeking constitutionally protected and legal health services; and

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP supports policy proposals requiring CPCs to disclose that 1) the center is not a medical facility or medical clinic, 2) the center does not perform or provide referrals for abortion or contraception, and 3) the center is not bound by HIPAA requirements protecting confidentiality; and

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP urges federal, state, and local governments to only support programs that provide medically accurate and unbiased information to women facing unintended pregnancies, and to enforce existing consumer protections laws prohibiting the deceptive practices engaged in by CPCs, and

RESOLVED, that the NYSAFP instruct its delegates to present and adaptation of this resolution to the AAFP Congress of Delegates.

¹ As of the date of submission there have been no peer-reviewed studies published on the operations or educational materials distributed by CPCs. As such the citations listed below reflect the best known information and research that is available on CPCs.

² Santelli J.(2003). *The Measurement and Meaning of Unintended Pregnancy*. Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, 35,2.

³ Forest, JD (1994). *Epidemiology of Unintended Pregnancy and Contraceptive Use*. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 1994 May;170(5 Pt 2):1485-9.

⁴ Loveland, C. (1999). *Access Barriers and the Use of Pre-Natal Care by Low-income, Inner-city Women*. Social Work.

⁵ Care Net. (2010). *Care Net Initiatives*. Retrieved 20 2010, June , from <https://www.care-net.org/ourwork/program.php?id=1>

⁶ Heartbeat International. (2010). *Urban Initiative*. Retrieved June 20, 2010, from <http://www.heartbeatinternational.org/our-initiatives/urban-initiative>

⁷ National Abortion Federation. (2006). *Crisis Pregnancy Centers: An Affront to Choice*. Retrieved June 3, 2010, from http://www.prochoice.org/pubs_research/publications/downloads/public_policy/cpc_report.pdf

⁸ False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers. United States House Of Representatives Committee On Government Reform — Minority Staff Special Investigations Division. Prepared for Rep. Henry Waxman. July 2006. <http://www.chsourcebook.com/articles/waxman2.pdf>

⁹ NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland Fund. (2008). *Maryland Crisis Pregnancy Center Investigations: The Truth Revealed*

¹⁰ NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation. (2010). *Crisis Pregnancy Centers Revealed*.

¹¹ United States House of Representatives. (2006). *False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers*.

¹² National Abortion Federation. (2006). *Crisis Pregnancy Centers: An Affront to Choice*. Retrieved June 3, 2010, from http://www.prochoice.org/pubs_research/publications/downloads/public_policy/cpc_report.pdf

¹³ *Mother & Unborn Baby Care of North Texas, Inc. v. State*, 749 S.W.2d 533 (Tex.App.-Fort Worth March 30, 1988).

¹⁴ *Boes v. Deschu*, 768 S.W. 2d 205, 206.

¹⁵ NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland Fund. (2008). *Maryland Crisis Pregnancy Center Investigations: The Truth Revealed*.

¹⁶ Lin, V. a. (2003). *Crisis Pregnancy Centers Seek to Increase Political Clout, Secure Government Subsidy*. Retrieved June 18, 2010, from <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/tgr/05/2/gr050204.htm>

¹⁷ Stipulation of Settlement. *Choice, Inc, of Texas v. Graham*, Case 2:04-cv-01581-SRD-KWR. Retrieved January 31, 2011 from

[http://reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/\[88\]%20Stipulation%20of%20Settlement.pdf](http://reproductiverights.org/sites/crr.civicactions.net/files/documents/[88]%20Stipulation%20of%20Settlement.pdf)

¹⁸ False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers, July 2006.

¹⁹ Ibid.