



Committee on Pro-Life Activities

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The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 10, 2024

Dear Senator Hyde-Smith,

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, I write in support of your legislation, the Pregnancy Center Support Act.

Mothers who are pregnant or parenting young children and find themselves in need can experience great vulnerability and uncertainty as to where to turn. Thankfully, the workers and volunteers of pregnancy help centers give of themselves to meet these women with love and support. In doing so, they live out the “radical solidarity” with such mothers to which we are all called.¹

Across the country, approximately 2,750 community-based, non-profit pregnancy help centers offer a life-affirming spectrum of care to new mothers in challenging circumstances. For many, this includes material assistance, such as clothing, diapers, cribs, car seats, and formula; assistance with childcare and babysitting; career services; referrals for housing and food aid; provision of health information and education on pregnancy, labor, and delivery; certain medical services, including ultrasounds, prenatal, and postnatal care; parenting classes for mothers as well as fathers; and personal mentorship and support. With more than 16 million client visits and over \$350 million worth of goods and services provided in a year, these centers offer uniquely comprehensive assistance to those who walk through their doors.² The practical, loving service that pregnancy help centers offer can extend far beyond the birth of the child, with relationships between parents and help centers continuing for years.

Sadly, some pregnancy help centers have been the targets of violence, vandalism, and an orchestrated campaign to malign their good names. The Pregnancy Center Support Act answers this with a showing of hope. By offering a partial tax credit for individuals' and businesses' donations in support of these centers up to \$10,000 (\$20,000 for joint filers), Congress can send a unified signal of compassion in standing with mothers who are in present need, regardless of politics. Most importantly, it will incentivize giving to strengthen the ability of centers to serve women and their families.

¹ See <https://www.usccb.org/news/2022/bishop-chairmen-call-radical-solidarity-and-congressional-action-supporting-women-and>.

² See Moira Gaul and Michael J. New, “Hope for a New Generation,” Charlotte Lozier Inst., Dec. 15, 2023, available at <https://lozierinstitute.org/pregnancy-centers-provided-over-350m-of-services-goods/> (reporting for 2022).

Thank you for introducing the Pregnancy Center Support Act. I encourage your colleagues in Congress to co-sponsor and advance this legislation in support of the lifesaving work of pregnancy help centers and those whom they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the end of the first name.

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities