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Report Reveals Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC) Industry Increasingly Relies on Public Funds to Push Medical Disinformation & Experimental “Treatment” on Pregnant People

Pennsylvania featured prominently in national report for financing the most predatory CPC practices and ongoing lack of accountability and transparency

PENNSYLVANIA, October 26, 2021 – Women’s Law Project joins the Alliance: State Advocates for Women’s Rights & Gender Equality today in releasing a report, “Designed to Deceive: A Study of the Crisis Pregnancy Center Industry in Nine States.”

The Alliance report and companion documents are available [here](#).

CPCs are anti-abortion organizations that seek to intercept low-income people experiencing unintended pregnancies as they search for health care to prevent them from accessing abortion and contraception.

Designed to Deceive is an in-depth look at services offered and practices of the contemporary CPC industry, which increasingly relies on public funds yet has rarely been held accountable for how pregnant people are treated or public money is spent, despite multiple investigations and public complaints.

The Alliance Study finds that despite marketing efforts and claims of medical legitimacy, CPCs offer few to no medical services. Almost two-thirds promoted false or misleading medical information about pregnancy and abortion. Approximately one-third of CPCs now promote a rogue, experimental “treatment” called “abortion pill reversal” (APR) to low-income pregnant people. Medical experts say APR is not based on science; there is no clinical evidence of its efficacy or safety.

In Pennsylvania, state-funded CPCs push APR at higher rates than the national average, and higher than CPCs without state support.

The Study found almost half of surveyed CPCs are affiliated with major anti-abortion organizations, which facilitates the systematic dissemination of misleading medical claims and the collection of massive amounts of sensitive client data. With Texas Senate Bill 8 and copycat laws expected, CPCs are now positioned to surveil pregnant people & feed their data to vigilante anti-abortion bounty hunters anywhere in the country.

Pennsylvania is featured prominently in the report.

“Pennsylvania stands out as the most egregious state in the Alliance Study,” says **Tara Murtha, WLP director of communications and report co-author**. “CPCs outnumber abortion clinics in Pennsylvania by nine to one. We’re the only state in the Study that double-funds CPCs with taxpayer money by diverting money meant for poor children to anti-abortion activists in addition to giving them millions through a state contract. Pennsylvania recently renewed a contract with CPC chain Real Alternatives, despite years of reports of misuse and waste of public funds, including having been accused of ‘skimming’ by a former state official. The state financing CPCs pushing ‘abortion pill reversal,’ which is unregulated experimentation on pregnant people, is especially appalling given CPCs have renewed an effort to target Black women.”

“Abortion pill reversal,” an experimental, unscientific, and potentially dangerous “treatment” where low-income pregnant people who began the process of a medication abortion are administered high doses of hormones under the guise it will help “reverse” an abortion. It is currently a CPC priority.

“We are just beginning to reckon with our country’s long, shameful history of racist and sexist medical abuse. And now we’re seeing a coordinated effort to promote a new form of racist and sexist experimentation on pregnant people,” says **WLP staff attorney Christine Castro**. “This finding should serve as a bellwether for the rest of the country.”

The report includes national and state-specific policy recommendations.

“The recommendations seek to hold CPCs accountable for how they treat pregnant people and spend public funds, but also call for policies that promote equitable access to evidence-based reproductive health care and enable economic security,” says **WLP director of policy & advocacy Amal Bass**. “The scarcity of access to legitimate health care, combined with widespread financial insecurity, is the context that makes people vulnerable to CPCs.”

To date, Pennsylvania has given \$113 million in state dollars and \$21 million in federal funds intended for poor children and pregnant women to anti-abortion activists via crisis pregnancy center networks.

Full report and companion documents are available [here](#).

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