

PROTECT PRCS IN MA



PREGNANCY CARE ALLIANCE

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A Petition to Protect Massachusetts' Pregnancy Resource Centers, The Choice Women Deserve

We, the undersigned Massachusetts residents, object to any legislation or state-sponsored initiative that seeks to damage the reputations of Massachusetts pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) or prevent these nonprofit organizations from engaging in their charitable service to women in need.

We call on Governor Healey, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, each state senator and representative, as well as Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, to withdraw all attempts to thwart the work of our PRCs. We respectfully ask that these leaders issue a public acknowledgment that PRCs offer the choice women deserve.

Since 2022, Massachusetts government officials at the state and local level have sought to prevent the charitable efforts of pregnancy resource centers. PRCs are privately-funded, non profit organizations that receive no city, state or federal funding, and which exist solely to provide free care and resources to women, men and children in need. A 2023 public records request by Massachusetts Citizens for Life to the Attorney General's office revealed that, in more than four decades of service to tens of thousands of clients, not one complaint of merit has ever been filed against a Massachusetts PRC.

Despite providing material goods, healthcare and counseling services, the value of which exceeds millions of dollars over the course of their history, PRCs have faced mounting pressure recently from the state, including the following attempts to prevent them from effectively serving clients:

1. Supported by U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), who said of PRCs in July 2022 that "We need to shut them down," Governor Maura Healey, as attorney general, issued a Consumer Advisory against PRCs, which still remains in effect today. Results of a public records request revealed no valid reason for the warning to have been issued.

2. Emboldened by Governor Healey and Senator Warren, cities across the state, including Somerville, Cambridge, Easthampton and Worcester, sought to ban PRCs from operating successfully within their borders.
3. In 2023, Massachusetts legislators introduced the “Pregnancy Resource Center Gag Rule” HB377/SB174, aimed at censoring the speech of PRCs, preventing them from serving women in need.
4. In 2023, Governor Healey approved a \$1 million public “education” campaign to spread false information about PRCs and damage their reputations.
5. The legislature declined to advance HB 1783, An Act relative to Abortion Pill Reversal; Informed Consent. The bill would have provided women with yet another choice when faced with an unplanned pregnancy, offered at no cost from PRCs.
6. In January 2024, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a memo to licensed PRCs that included veiled threats against their physicians, staff and the prescribing of Abortion Pill Reversal therapy. Results of a public records request by Massachusetts Citizens for Life to the DPH revealed no basis or valid reason for the memo to have been issued.

The women of Massachusetts deserve every opportunity to exercise choice when faced with an unplanned pregnancy. Pregnancy resource centers can present this choice through cost-free services, medical care, material goods and counseling, in addition to compassion, support and varied options for housing assistance and job training that no abortion provider offers.

We demand that all state efforts to undermine PRCs cease immediately. Additionally, we request that a rectifying statement be issued to Massachusetts residents, who, because of the state’s unwarranted attacks, have formed grave misperceptions of PRCs.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

I’ve reviewed the petition and consent to share my information as a signatory:

Yes:

Signature: _____

**When completed, please mail to:
Massachusetts Citizens for Life, 231 Norfolk St., Walpole, MA 02081**