



NARAL
Pro-Choice Maryland Fund

RELEASES REPORT ON CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS

Report exposes how so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" give women inaccurate, deceptive information

Annapolis, MD - NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland Fund will release a report on the organization's 12-month investigation of crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs). The report coincides with two purported women's health initiatives. The Maryland Catholic Conference is pushing for \$800,000 in state funding for these centers. Meanwhile, pro-choice legislators, Delegate Roger Manno and Senator Rich Madaleno have introduced a bill that would limit CPC's ability to mislead clients. **Media are invited to participate in a conference call on Wednesday, February 20, at 11:30 am EST.**

CPCs are volunteer-run clinics that provide free services to women facing unintended pregnancies. These services include free pregnancy testing, 'options' counseling, limited parenting assistance, and, in some cases, sonograms and STI testing. However, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland's report reveals that CPCs across the state systematically use false and misleading information to deter women from exploring all of their reproductive healthcare options. In addition, many of these centers are failing to provide sufficient information and referrals regarding adoption or parenting.

Report author Melissa Kleder will provide an overview of tactics used by CPCs to manipulate women, examples of the misinformation distributed, and anecdotes of women's experiences at specific centers. Audrey Gottheimer, one of the study's investigators, will present highlights of her experiences at the centers. Del. Roger Manno will discuss HB 1146, the Limited Service Pregnancy Center- Disclaimer bill, which would require CPCs to provide a disclaimer stating the limitations of their services.

Who: Ariana Kelly, Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland
Melissa Kleder, Reproductive Health Programs Coordinator,
NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland
Audrey Gottheimer, Co-President of Terps for Choice/CPC investigator
Maryland Delegate Roger Manno (D-19)

What: Release of a report on NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland's 12-month investigation of crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs)

When: **Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 11:30 am EST**

To RSVP and receive the call-in number, pass code, and complete press kit please call 301-565-4154 or email erin@prochoicemd.org

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