



For Immediate Release

Pennsylvania Pregnancy Wellness Collaborative
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PA Attorney General Michelle Henry has recently offered advice to consumers about pregnancy related services through a [recent press release](#). Her appeal to pregnant women is to seek accurate information to make informed decisions. Perhaps it is the AG who needs to be informed. Without any evidence cited, her “consumer advisory” recklessly warns against pregnancy centers claiming that medical services are being administered by non-medical personnel. The advisory also directs readers to a place to report “misleading and deceptive conduct by Crisis Pregnancy Centers.” Examples given of alleged misconduct include misrepresenting services, delaying reproductive health services through duplicative tests, and/or hidden fees. Let’s take a moment to fact-check our Attorney General.

Pregnancy centers are trusted. Pregnancy centers across the state have been delivering services and resources for over 50 years. In that time, not one has been found to violate the Truth in Advertising laws, and none have ever been given a formal warning about false claims in advertising. Instead, these vital centers are part of the health network in Pennsylvania that works to lower maternal and infant mortality, provide support and resources to families, and fill the gaps in practical, ongoing care for young families. In response to the needs of their communities, many pregnancy centers across the Commonwealth have converted to a medical model and invested countless private dollars to increase pregnancy and parenting services in rural and urban communities.

Pregnancy centers are the first responders for a woman learning she is pregnant. Their services focus on maternal and fetal health by providing services that foster early pregnancy education and ongoing postnatal support. Pregnancy centers intervene to address racial and economic disparities by offering education and mentoring in rural, urban, and underserved neighborhoods. Pregnancy centers are grassroots efforts designed to meet the felt needs of their beautiful and unique communities.

Pregnancy medical centers see women in the earliest days of their pregnancy. Pregnancy testing is followed by a no-cost limited obstetrical ultrasound, which is a vital step when making a decision about pregnancy. The goal is to connect women with genuine health care as early as possible. This limited ultrasound:

- Provides early diagnosis of pregnancy.
- Confirms placement inside the uterus, which rules out an ectopic pregnancy.
- Confirms viability and measures gestation age (exact number of weeks/days of the fetus).

Pregnancy centers care about informed consent and believe that each woman deserves information about her pregnancy and her options before a pregnancy decision. Informed consent includes a helpful presentation of all the options, including parenting and adoption.

Pregnancy centers maintain high standards of confidentiality. While HIPAA pertains specifically to medical offices who require payment, and pregnancy centers most often provide services free of cost, many pregnancy centers voluntarily comply with HIPAA as the accepted standard of care, and all pregnancy centers comply with state and federal privacy regulations.

Pregnancy centers are a vital presence in Pennsylvania, serving tens of thousands of families across the state. [In 2019, pregnancy help was given to over 60,000 young women, men, and their babies through pregnancy centers.](#) An estimated \$5.6 million in free resources, diapers, formula, classes, and more! In just one year (2019), these estimated totals included:

- Over 91,000 baby items were distributed, including free car seats, cribs, diapers, etc.
- Over 10,000 STD/STI tests were administered.
- Over 9,000 ultrasounds were performed by a registered nurse or medical sonographer.

Typical pregnancy centers across our commonwealth offer prenatal education, birthing classes, mentoring for new fathers, and education on issues like nutrition during pregnancy, child-proofing homes, car seat safety, and much more.

AG Henry's accusations and characterization of pregnancy help centers are rated: False, False, and False. Local pregnancy center organizations exist to provide safe and confidential health care to those experiencing unexpected pregnancy. Pregnancy centers have a long history across the Commonwealth as trusted confidential partners. It is a fact that many women want to choose life for their unborn children. For those who choose abortion, pregnancy centers offer post-abortion assessment and supportive care. Pregnancy centers offer what all women deserve to have: a choice to access safe and free care.

We would like to invite AG Henry, and anyone in our community, to get to know us. Reach out to the PPWC and schedule a meeting with one of our board members to learn more about how pregnancy centers are good for Pennsylvania and good for America.

We ask AG Henry to take this page down and retract all incorrect statements made regarding pregnancy centers.

The Pennsylvania Pregnancy Wellness Collaborative represents local pregnancy resource centers and pregnancy medical centers facing important and sometimes threatening shifts in our culture and government. Together, we promote and affirm the sanctity of human life. Our purpose is to unify in one voice to advocate for policies that protect our organizations and the families they serve.

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For more information, please contact our PPWC Vice President, [Amy Scheuring](#), at amys@womenschoicenet.com.