

Response to library display and continued efforts to slander the Pregnancy Resource Center of Addison County

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Hello,

I would like to once again request that your inquiries and reporting of “violations of women’s reproductive freedoms” leave the sweeping generalizations of abortion activists, and instead focus on accurate reporting of the Pregnancy Resource Center of Addison County. Just as I would never portray all abortionists as murderers (i.e., Dr. Kermit Gosnell), I would hope that you would investigate the center in your area specifically. I assume at least one of you attended the showing of the documentary “Breaking the Silence” and heard the director, Willow Feral, acknowledge that she had inquired into the local pregnancy center in her area, and found it to be a useful resource in the community.

So far the only information collected directly from our center was one brochure that Kelsie Hoppes picked up in 2017, a brochure I have actually never handed out to ANY of our clients. I only say that, not because the brochure was inaccurate, but because the brochure was not up to date (we had just moved into our location and I had not updated our brochures yet. I didn’t even offer it to Kelsie, but she asked to look at our brochures and took it), and it is also information that we do not use or talk about when providing options counseling to our clients. I don’t believe that any other information from the Pregnancy Resource Center of Addison County has been specifically used to show us as misleading or inaccurate. Really, John Oliver?! I don’t know where he found his sources, but I have watched it and I can certainly attest that our center staff would NEVER speak as those portrayed in his show.

I found it strangely ironic that we actually have a link on our own website to the [Post Abortion Stress Syndrome article](#) that the handout at the Student Activities Fair referenced! If you had read past the line quoted on the handout, you would have seen that the writer acknowledges that some women DO suffer symptoms after an abortion and need support. Are you saying that women should be denied the support they need? In regards to a woman’s reproductive freedom, wouldn’t you say they should have the freedom to be supported if they are feeling pressured to have an abortion, but don’t really want to have one? We offer that support. And we don’t gain financially from any decision, where abortion clinics do benefit financially from an abortion decision.

I also find it ironic that the Pregnancy Center is being accused of inaccurate information as the website created <https://www.reproductivehealthvt.com/> has some pretty significant information on abortion procedures that even conflicts strongly with Planned Parenthood’s website. Please review your “Types of Abortion” and see if:

1. The Morning After Pill, Plan B, is really recommended up to 10 weeks? It is actually the medical abortion, RU-486, that is used up to 10 weeks and taking Plan B is only for taking up to 72 hours after sexual intercourse.
2. Your Type 2 Medical Abortion, which would be the RU-486, indicates that it would be used between 10-24 weeks. It is actually only used between 6-10 weeks.
3. Under Surgical Abortions, it is stated that the procedure is simple and only takes one short visit. That may be true for a first trimester abortion, but after 12+ weeks, local, and sometimes general, anesthesia is used and more than one visit is necessary to prepare the cervix for the evacuation of the fetus.

I would hope that Prof. Thomsen will be able to advise her students to take an honest and true inquiry-based approach to their social action and to be critical thinkers. I have reached out to her before to offer to come to her class when CPC’s are discussed and do a Q&A. I was told the classes are “purely academic” and that no outside speakers are brought in. I believe that is inaccurate as numerous speakers are listed on the class syllabus, and even one is listed to address CPC’s.

I would encourage students to rise above the rhetoric and seek truth. I would assume that students come to college to learn to be critical thinkers and not echo chambers of a professor's ideology. My hope is that, despite differing viewpoints, that we will come to a place where we can respect each other and see how much we actually do agree on (supporting women), and that allowing an organization like the Pregnancy Center to flourish is good for our community.

I once again invite anyone to find out the truth by coming to visit our center and learn what we actually do.

Sincerely,

J [REDACTED]

Executive Director

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