

IN GOOD CONSCIENCE

November 16, 2010

The Honorable Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Quinn:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the recently introduced legislation that would amend the administrative code of the city of New York in relation to limited service pregnancy centers (Int 0371-2010).

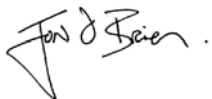
Catholics support policies like those proposed in this legislation because laws such as these help women make informed decisions about their healthcare, especially in matters of reproductive health. The role of individual, informed conscience in matters of moral decision making is at the core of the Catholic tradition—and the public policy views of Catholics in the United States reflect this tradition.

This law provides the information Catholic women and other potential clients of these limited service pregnancy centers need to have in order to make informed decisions about their healthcare options, including pregnancy, birth control or abortion. By requiring fair and accurate representations of the services these centers do and do not provide, this law will allow women and their families to make informed, conscientious decisions about their healthcare. Accurate and timely information will help a woman to decide which facility will best meet her needs, and will assist her in getting appropriate care without delay. This is a proposal that Catholics can and do support.

We realize that you may hear from conservative Catholics who oppose this legislation. We want to assure you that they do not represent the opinions of Catholics in New York City or of Catholics throughout the state of New York who may come to New York City for healthcare services. Polling over time has shown that Catholics in the United States support access to the complete range of reproductive healthcare services, including access to contraception and abortion services.

I appreciate the time that you are taking on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Jon O'Brien
President

PRESIDENT

Jon O'Brien

VICE PRESIDENT

Sara Morello

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