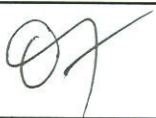



F R O M	Name & Title	Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., RS Interim Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street		
	Subject	Council Bill 09-406 – Limited Pregnancy Centers - Disclaimers		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

October 21, 2009

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) supports City Council Bill 09-0406. The purpose of the bill is to require limited-service pregnancy centers to provide accurate information about available services to clients and potential clients.

Limited-service pregnancy centers, also referred to as crisis pregnancy centers, are organizations that advertise free pregnancy services to women. Their services usually include free pregnancy testing, options counseling, and short-term material assistance for women with unplanned pregnancies. These centers, however, do not provide complete and comprehensive information regarding all pregnancy options and birth control prevention.

It is imperative that all Baltimore City women have the ability to obtain factual and timely advice on all available health care options. Therefore, BCHD strongly believes that all women have the right to know which services are offered and not offered at all facilities that primarily provide pregnancy-related care and information.

In Baltimore City, approximately 50% of all pregnancies are unplanned. This is a percentage that BCHD would like to see decreased. It is a known fact that the ability to plan pregnancies is associated with better birth outcomes, decreased poverty, increased educational opportunities, and workforce prospects.

For the reasons stated above BCHD supports this bill.

Cc: Angela Gibson

