



March 12, 2024

The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health supports the adoption of SB 862 – Public Health – Pregnancy – Coercion (Protecting Pregnant Women Against Coercive Abuse and Human Trafficking)

The Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health performs pregnancy testing and prenatal ultrasound. We provide a variety of services for pregnant and parenting women, but we do not offer abortions. After confirming a pregnancy, we have witnessed pregnant women being coercive or threatening by their partner, family or others insisting that the mother must have an abortion.

Most recently a young women came to the Grace Center with a family member. We performed an ultrasound to confirm the pregnancy. The family member became agitated and would not let the young women take the copy of her ultrasound, receive prenatal education from the nurse or let her discuss options counseling with the nurse. The family member wanted a report of a viable pregnancy and gestation period so that she could schedule an abortion at another location. The young pregnant women was caught off guard by the family members reaction and statements. When the family member stepped away the pregnant women quickly grabbed the ultrasound picture and stuffed it into her pocket.

We are currently providing post-abortion support to a young girl who felt coerced by her parents to have an abortion. It is over a year after the procedure, and she is depressed, angry with her family and is receiving mental health treatment due to expressing to her parents “you should have killed me when you killed my baby”.

In delivery of our services we have witnessed that Laws need to be created to protect pregnant women from coercive abuse and to make sure they are informed of their rights.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joann Manole".

Joann Manole,

Executive Director

Grace Center for Maternal and Women's Health

Our Mission

A SAFE HAVEN DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE MATERNAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

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