



Memorandum

To: Town Council Members
From: Councilor Ana Devlin Gauthier
Date: June 10th, 2022
Re: Proposed Bylaw Regarding Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers

Pursuant to Council Rule of Procedure 8.8, Withdrawal of Measures, I (Councilor Devlin Gauthier, sponsor) hereby notify the Town Council of the withdrawal of the Proposed Bylaw Regarding Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Crisis Pregnancy Centers from consideration by the Council and any committee to which it was referred. I further request, pursuant to Rule 8.8 that President Griesemer place this withdrawal on the consent agenda, even though no vote is required pursuant to the Rule, in order to maintain a clear record of this withdrawal.

I would like to be very clear about my reason for withdrawing this measure. It has nothing to do with the importance or legitimacy of this bylaw, and everything to do with the need for an approach which meets the urgent moment we are now in. Crisis Pregnancy Centers are dangerous. Their deceptive practices are a threat to reproductive health and wellbeing. When I first wrote this bylaw, the landscape of reproductive justice work looked different than it did the week I introduced it to Council. During the time between those two events, a leaked draft of a Supreme Court majority opinion made it apparent that both *Roe* and *Casey* would likely be overturned in the coming months. The leaked majority opinion on *Dobbs* has the potential to undo over 50 years of protections offered to those who benefit from reproductive care in any way. In light of the leaked opinion, the focus of leaders on the local, state, and federal level must be aligned and prioritize availability of resources, education, and preparedness. As Amherst does not currently have a CPC within our community, we are in a better position to focus our energy and work on these. Amherst has been and remains committed to supporting the right of every individual seeking care to find the legitimate care they deserve. That does not change because of this, that will not change in the future.

I would like to thank the members of GOL for obtaining a Town Attorney “issue spotting” review on this bylaw and for their initial consideration. I also thank the Town Manager and the Town staff for taking time to review the proposed bylaw and offer suggestions. I would like to again stress that rescinding this measure is by no means a reflection of its importance nor my confidence in its eventual passage, and I fully plan to bring it forward at a later date, when the time is right.

For reference, below is the text of Council Rule 8.8, Withdrawal of Measures.

At the written request of any sponsor(s) of a measure, a measure shall be withdrawn from consideration in the Council and in all Council Committees to which the matter has been referred, provided the withdrawal is on the agenda of a Council meeting. No vote shall be required. However, if at that meeting sponsors of a measure do not unanimously agree to withdraw a matter, the matter shall not be withdrawn. At that time, upon request, any Councilor shall have their individual sponsorship removed.