

Protecting Patients' Access to Abortion & Holding Fake Clinics Accountable

[SB 1909](#) - Sen. Villanueva, D-12 (Chicago) | [HB 2463](#) - Rep. Costa Howard, D-42 (Lombard)

The Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act protects the freedom of all pregnant people to access abortion care in Illinois without interference from anti-abortion groups and their shady fake clinics.

Everyone must have access to accurate, comprehensive, evidence-based, judgment-free health care and information from expert providers — especially when it comes to decisions about sexual health, pregnancy, and abortion. This is exactly the type of care patients trust Planned Parenthood to provide day in and day out. **But anti-abortion centers, sometimes called “crisis pregnancy centers,” CPCs, or fake clinics, exploit patients’ trust.**

Anti-abortion fake clinics across Illinois have a shady, harmful agenda: to trick people into believing they are a legitimate health care provider; to spread disinformation about abortion, birth control, and sexual health; and to scare, shame, or pressure people against accessing abortion or contraception. They do not provide the full range of health care services or information.

These fake clinics’ tactics to manipulate people and block their access to legitimate health care include:

- **Misrepresentation and false advertising.** Fake clinics may appear to be legitimate health centers that provide a full range of health care, including birth control and abortion. They may have ultrasound machines, unlicensed staff in white coats, medical-sounding names, and professional websites. They also often post signs near or are located very close to real health centers like Planned Parenthood — but most are not legitimate medical clinics, and do not provide the comprehensive care, information, and referrals they deceive would-be patients into thinking they offer.
- **Disinformation and manipulation.** Once a fake clinic has tricked you into trusting them and coming inside, they will often give inaccurate and untrustworthy information designed to shame, scare, or pressure you into making certain decisions about sex and pregnancy. They may say negative things about abortion, birth control, condoms or sex. Many fake clinics scare you by asserting false risks about abortion.
- **Delays.** Fake clinics delay access to care at a real health center. They may tell a person their pregnancy is earlier or later than it really is to confuse them about how much time they have to get an abortion or to make them miss their appointment at a real health center. Delay tactics can push abortion care out of reach, and delay needed prenatal care for those who do decide to continue their pregnancies.



Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region
and Southwest Missouri

- **Threats to security and privacy.** Fake clinics are generally not held to the same privacy standards and confidentiality requirements as legitimate health care providers. This privacy risk is especially dangerous now that *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned – many people have to flee their home states to access care here in Illinois, but live in states where surveillance of and punishment for pregnancy outcomes is an increasing threat.

Lawmakers can act to hold anti-abortion fake clinics accountable and rein in their deceptive practices. Senate Bill 1909 and HB 2463 would:

- Stop anti-abortion centers from targeting people seeking pregnancy care and information by using fraudulent and deceptive practices, or withholding information, in order to:
 - Interfere with an individual's access to an abortion provider
 - Coax an individual to enter their facility on false premises
 - Advertise, offer, or provide reproductive health services
- Empower the Attorney General to hold fake clinics accountable if they violate these common-sense consumer protections
- Give consumers recourse when they have been harmed by deceptive practices

We should all agree that no one should be deceived, coerced, or shamed when seeking health care. If anti-abortion centers truly are confident in the integrity and honesty of their practices, they would have no issue with measures such as SB 1909 and HB 2463, which simply hold bad actors accountable for deliberately lying to and deceiving people seeking reproductive health care.