

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Pro-Life Fox Valley Citizens to Protest Rep. Barbara Hernandez's
Pregnancy Center Bill**

Efforts to restrain charitable aid to pregnant women restricts their choice

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AURORA, February 8, 2022 — Pro-life advocates and concerned citizens are gathering at noon tomorrow at the Aurora office of State Representative Barbara Hernandez to oppose her chief sponsorship of HB4221, the “Pregnancy Center Disclosure Act.” The bill would require pregnancy care centers to post large signs effectively declaring themselves to be “fake” clinics, or face crippling fines. The bill also includes a provision that mimics the enforcement mechanism of Texas’s controversial SB8 abortion law, allowing private individuals to bring a cause of action against pregnancy centers and be compensated for all costs.

“It’s not enough for Rep. Hernandez that Illinois has become the abortion capital of the Midwest, with out-of-state abortions skyrocketing,” said Eric J. Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League. “Now she wants to shut down pregnancy care centers that offer women a real choice. The only choice Barbara Hernandez wants for families in need is abortion.”

Scheidler notes that Illinois’s network of pro-life pregnancy resource centers offers practical assistance to women who think abortion may be their only option, including free medical care, parenting classes, financial assistance, and more. “Choosing to welcome a child and embrace parenthood should not be an option available only to the privileged,” Scheidler remarked. “Rep. Hernandez’s abortion-first values are way out of step with her constituents in the 83rd District.” Scheidler and his family live in the district.

What: Protest of Rep. Barbara Hernandez

When: Wednesday, February 9 at Noon

Where: 540 W. Galena Blvd., Aurora ([map](#))

Who: Pro-Life Action League, etc., and concerned citizens

Visuals: Large signs depicting abortion and fetal life, posters, picket line

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Scheidler also objects to Hernandez’s introduction of the HB4247, the “Public Higher Education Act,” which would require all public colleges and universities in Illinois to provide vending machines to dispense emergency contraception.

“As the father of several college-age daughters, I find this bill repugnant,” Scheidler said. “What message does it convey to young women about their value as women, as students, and as human beings to have a vending machine like this on campus? Fertility is not a disease, and casual sex is not something we should be encouraging like this.”

Wednesday's protest will call on Rep. Hernandez to withdraw both of these bills and instead pursue legislation that supports working families and authentically promotes the dignity of young women.

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About the Pro-Life Action League

The Pro-Life Action League was founded by the late Joseph M. Scheidler in 1980 with the aim of saving babies from abortion through direct action, and is now headed by Joe's son, Eric. Not content to await a political or judicial solution to abortion, the League seeks to stop the killing of unborn children right now through all available peaceful means, including public protest, sidewalk counseling, education, youth outreach, and national leadership. Visit prolifeaction.org to learn more.