

“God's children are not for sale.”

This line from the movie *Sound Of Freedom* could be applied to abortions as well as child sex trafficking. Both are billion dollar businesses that dehumanize and destroy children's lives, and destroy the family. And they are connected. In a 2019 study, a sex traffic survivor reported being taken to Planned Parenthood for birth control and, whenever it failed, for numerous abortions during her eight years of being trafficked.

After 27 years of being trafficked one woman was discarded by her pimp because she got pregnant and he didn't want to pay for another abortion. By God's Grace she was led to a pregnancy center where, in her words, “A woman named Phyllis changed everything. She calmed me with a single touch and the words, ' I know a man named Jesus who can help you'.”

Speaking of pregnancy centers. Our illustrious governor has recently announced he plans to end a decades-long program of financial support for Pennsylvania's pregnancy centers. The *Real Alternatives Program*, started by then governor Robert Casey, Sr. ( a *real* pro-life Democrat) helped 83 centers throughout the state support close to 14,000 women a year and saved the state close to \$500 million a year in healthcare costs. Shapiro claims the move will “ *ensure women in this Commonwealth receive the reproductive care they deserve.* ”

The PA Catholic Conference has a link to a message you can send to our legislators to continue the funding of *Real Alternatives*.

*[pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice](http://pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice)*

While I was typing this report, an email came in from Jill Hartman at AWC explaining how the lack of state funding would affect them.

When you become aware, you become responsible to do something.

We live in a world where abortion has been normalized. Being pro-choice is no longer synonymous with a woman's right to choose among ALL pregnancy options, but rather ONLY with the right to end her pregnancy. Last Thursday evening, Governor Shapiro announced plans to cancel the State of Pennsylvania's contract with Real Alternatives. For almost three decades, this program has provided funding to agencies that support alternatives to abortion, such as maternity homes, pregnancy centers, and adoption agencies. AWC receives approximately 15% of our annual revenue from this state program.

Ultimately, this announcement comes as no surprise. Abortion access is a central issue for the Shapiro administration, and AWC has been preparing for this moment. Nonetheless, it still represents an attack on pregnancy help services and the dozens of pregnancy centers like ours that offer vital life-affirming care to thousands of women in Pennsylvania every year.

The right to choose has changed.

The ability to make a choice to continue a pregnancy and to access the resources that make that choice possible are being drastically limited.?

Removing the state's financial support of pregnancy centers hurts the families within our local community. One of our clients, Crystal, testified at a hearing in Harrisburg this past June in support of pregnancy resource centers. She shared how grateful she was for our parenting classes and material resources. She and the 742 other parents who walked through our doors in 2022 were empowered with the resources and education they needed to build strong families. The elimination of this funding is intended to hinder or close the doors of centers like ours. However, the current framework for support defined by the governor's administration will inevitably harm the women and families within our local communities.

At AWC, our goal is to ensure that women are treated with dignity and respect. They deserve true choice and the resources needed to support a choice for life. Each year, pregnancy resource centers offer millions of dollars' worth of diapers, formula, parenting classes, baby clothes, strollers, cribs, and more to families in need. In Pennsylvania, pregnancy centers outnumber abortion clinics 9-to-1 and are an essential part of building strong communities. In this post-Roe world, please pray for those serving in public office - that they may uphold the best interests of the mothers, fathers, and families of Pennsylvania.

In the weeks ahead, keep an eye on [www.friendsofAWC.com](http://www.friendsofAWC.com) for updates regarding our plans to ensure that none of AWC's programs and services are affected by the loss of this funding.

For Life,

Jill Hartman



# AWC