



MARKUP: Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act (H.R. 6918)

KEY THEMES

The Biden Administration wants to deny valuable assistance to pregnant women.

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently proposed a rule that could restrict states from using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for pregnancy centers, among other changes.
- In 2019, 2,700 pregnancy centers across the country provided life-affirming services and material supports to 2 million people including pregnant women, parents, couples, and families.
- Pregnancy centers offer a variety of services that support the life of both the mother and unborn child including pregnancy testing, counseling, ultrasounds, prenatal and parenting education, birthing classes, diapers, baby clothes, and linkages to housing and transportation. Services and material assistance provided by pregnancy centers have an estimated value of over \$358 million annually.
- At least five states distribute a portion of their TANF funding to pregnancy centers, including Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Democrats are unfairly targeting pregnancy centers because of their pro-life mission.

- The Biden Administration argues that pregnancy centers should not be eligible for TANF because the centers “only help women after they have become pregnant.”
- Alarming, HHS suggests TANF should instead be steered toward programs that align with the business model of Planned Parenthood as they better meet the TANF purpose of “preventing out of wedlock births.”
- Pregnancy centers clearly meet TANF’s purposes by providing material support and assistance to women in need so children can be cared for in their own home and by reducing dependence on government assistance.

HHS is unlawfully sidestepping Congress, putting politics ahead of helping women.

- As the Committee stated in its [letter](#) to the Administration opposing the proposed rule, the TANF changes are in violation of explicit Congressional restrictions placed on the Department’s ability to regulate, and undermine state flexibility.
- Pregnancy centers are an important alternative for expectant mothers. This bill prohibits HHS from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing this or any similar rulemaking that would restrict use of TANF for pregnancy centers.