

Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund
Connie Ryan, executive director
HF515

The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund is strongly opposed to HF515.

Let's call this what it is. HF515 uses a lot of words to describe fake pregnancy centers that are designed specifically to mislead women and coerce them into staying pregnant, rather than choose an abortion.

Let's look at the language and phrasing in the explanation of the bill. Contractors shall meet ALL of the requirements in a long list. I will highlight just a few:

- Be a non-profit
- Have a commitment to promoting childbirth as a fundamental part of the contractor's mission
- Utilize proactive targeted digital marketing to reach pregnant women in real time who are in crisis and actively seeking an abortion and employ specific scripting strategies to create conversation with these pregnant women to encourage them to choose an alternative to an abortion by increasing awareness of services and removing obstacles to care

So, let's break that down.

- The focus is on the pregnancy only, and not the woman. Not her as a person or the concerns in her life. Not her medical needs. Not her family needs. Not her economic needs. Not her questions or her preferences.
- The contractor has to be a non-profit but there is no requirement of medical or counseling training or accreditation for its staff. Any non-profit without real healthcare expertise will do.
- And then perhaps the best part is that the contractor must have the ability and include in its plan the ability to stalk pregnant women through digital marketing. It must use "scripted strategies" when engaging women through their stalking methods. Scripted strategies. How is that ok? How is that ok in any sense of healthcare or emotional support?
- Scripted strategies in that conversation designed specifically and solely to convince the women who have been stalked to not have an abortion. That is what is being proposed in this legislation.

The contractor is not required to talk with a woman as a person, understanding her life, her healthcare needs, her concerns. They are not required to counsel her with ethical and sound best practices as generally accepted by those licensed in psychology, social work, or other healthcare professions. The goal is to convince a woman to not have an abortion. Period.

And, Taxpayers will turn over an appropriation of \$879,152 to a contractor to mislead, stalk, manipulate, and coerce women into a decision that may or may not be what they want.

Iowans who are pregnant and deciding whether to continue a pregnancy, or not, should be treated with respect, dignity, and served by providers with their best interest in mind, not with a preplanned, scripted agenda.

This legislation is immoral, harmful, misleading, and bad for Iowans. Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund urges you to oppose HF515.