



FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

# CHOICES CAMPUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WORLD'S LARGEST PRO-CHOICE STUDENT NETWORK

## CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE FAKE CLINICS

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### WHAT ARE FAKE CLINICS?

“Crisis Pregnancy Centers” (CPCs) or Pregnancy Resource Centers advertise on your campus and in your community. They pose as comprehensive women’s health clinics and advertise under “abortion” and “family planning” services, but do not offer abortion services, contraception, or referrals.

CPCs often provide false information about abortion, birth control, and the effectiveness of condoms for the prevention of STIs and HIV. Ultimately, their tactics delay or intimidate women from receiving comprehensive medical care.

Fake clinics target college students by locating near campuses and advertising “free” pregnancy tests. According to a 2008 survey by the Feminist Majority Foundation, 48% of responding Campus Health Centers include CPCs on their referral lists for students facing unintended pregnancies.

It is estimated that 3,500 CPCs exist nationwide, outnumbering comprehensive women’s health clinics. Most fake clinics are affiliated with one or more national anti-choice organizations.

### HAVE YOU SEEN THESE POPULAR CPC ADVERTISEMENTS?

**“PREGNANT? NEED HELP? YOU HAVE OPTIONS!”**

**“PREGNANT? SCARED? WE CAN HELP! CALL 1-800-XXX-XXXX”**

**“FREE PREGNANCY TESTS!”**

### THE DECEPTION

These CPCs lie to women in need. A Congressional investigation of CPCs revealed that 87% provided false or misleading information about the health effects of abortion.<sup>1</sup> The Congressional report found many of these federally funded centers grossly misrepresent the medical risks of abortion by telling women that having an abortion could increase the risk of breast cancer, result in sterility and lead to suicide and “post-abortion syndrome.”<sup>2</sup>

### ENDING THE DECEPTION

In 2009, Congress and the Obama administration eliminated most sources of federal funding for abstinence-only education and CPCs by requiring evidence-based, medically accurate prevention models. Over the previous ten years, Congress had funneled over 1.1 billion to failed abstinence-only-until-marriage education programs and CPCs.

We must return to scientifically proven strategies to reduce unwanted pregnancies and STIs, eliminate all funding for abstinence-only programs and fake clinics, and to increase funding for sexual and reproductive health care. We must urge our policymakers to crack down on the deceptive advertising practices of so-called crisis pregnancy centers and prohibit them from falsely advertising.

<sup>1</sup> United States Congress House Committee on Government Reform, Special Investigations Division. *False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers*. 109th Cong., 2nd Sess., 2006. Washington: GPO, 2006, p. i.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 7 – 13.